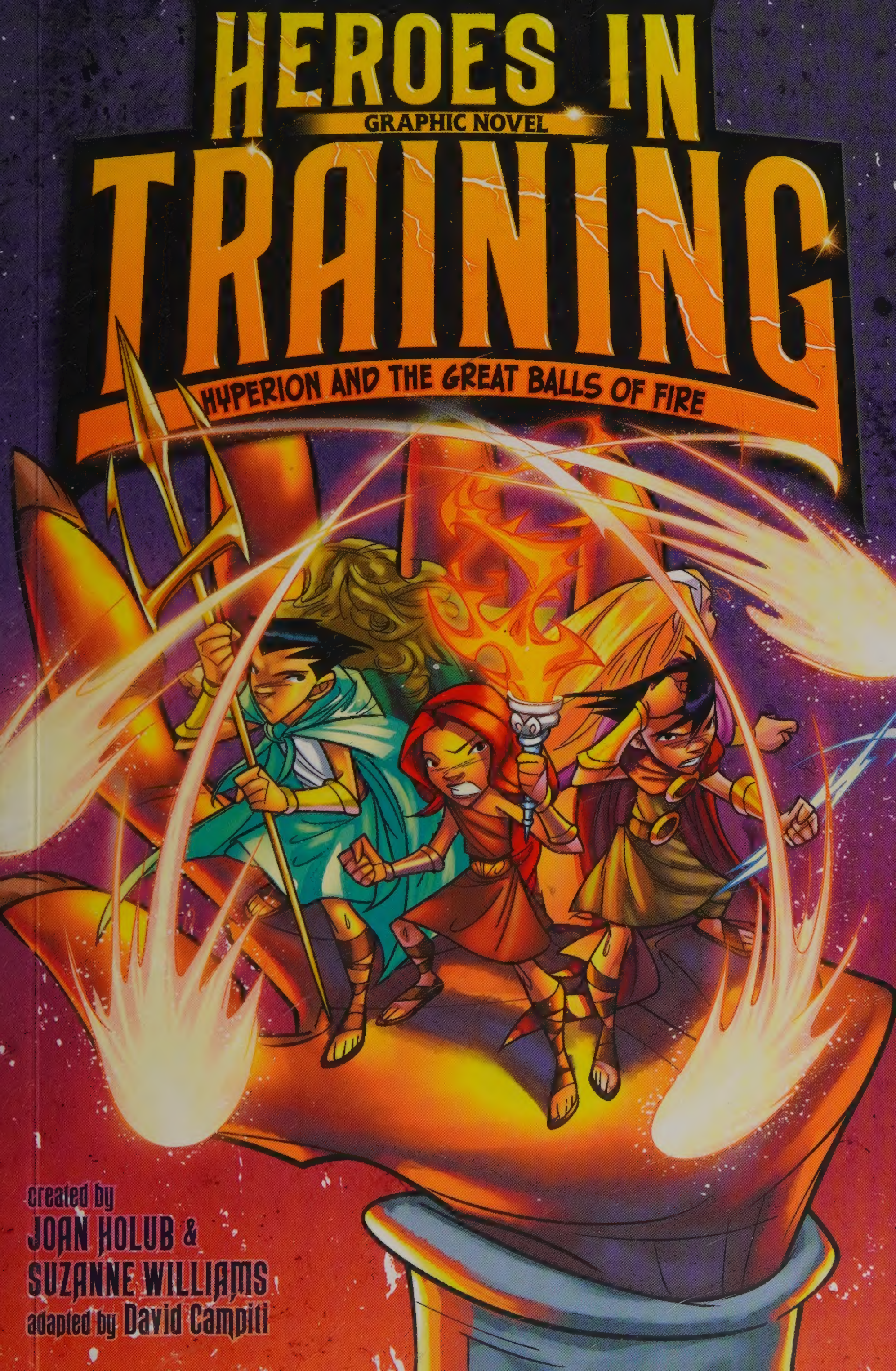
HEROES IN TRAINING

GRAPHIC NOVEL

HYPERION AND THE GREAT BALLS OF FIRE



created by
JOAN HOLUB &
SUZANNE WILLIAMS
adapted by David Campiti

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No. 4

HYPERION AND THE GREAT BALLS OF FIRE

created by **JOAN HOLUB** &
SUZANNE WILLIAMS
adapted by **David Campiti**
illustrated by **Dave Santana**
at Glass House Graphics

Aladdin
New York London Toronto Sydney New Delhi

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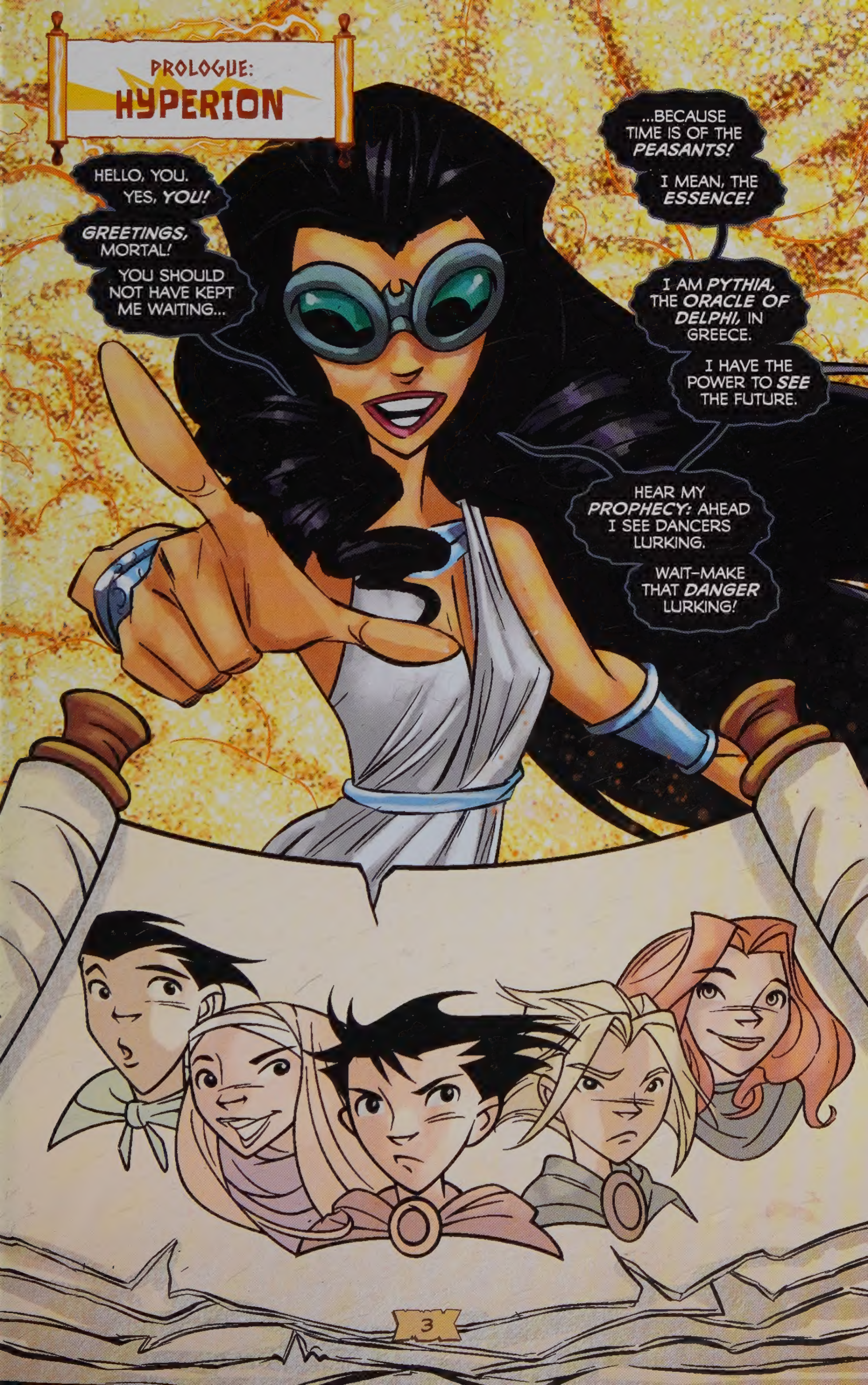
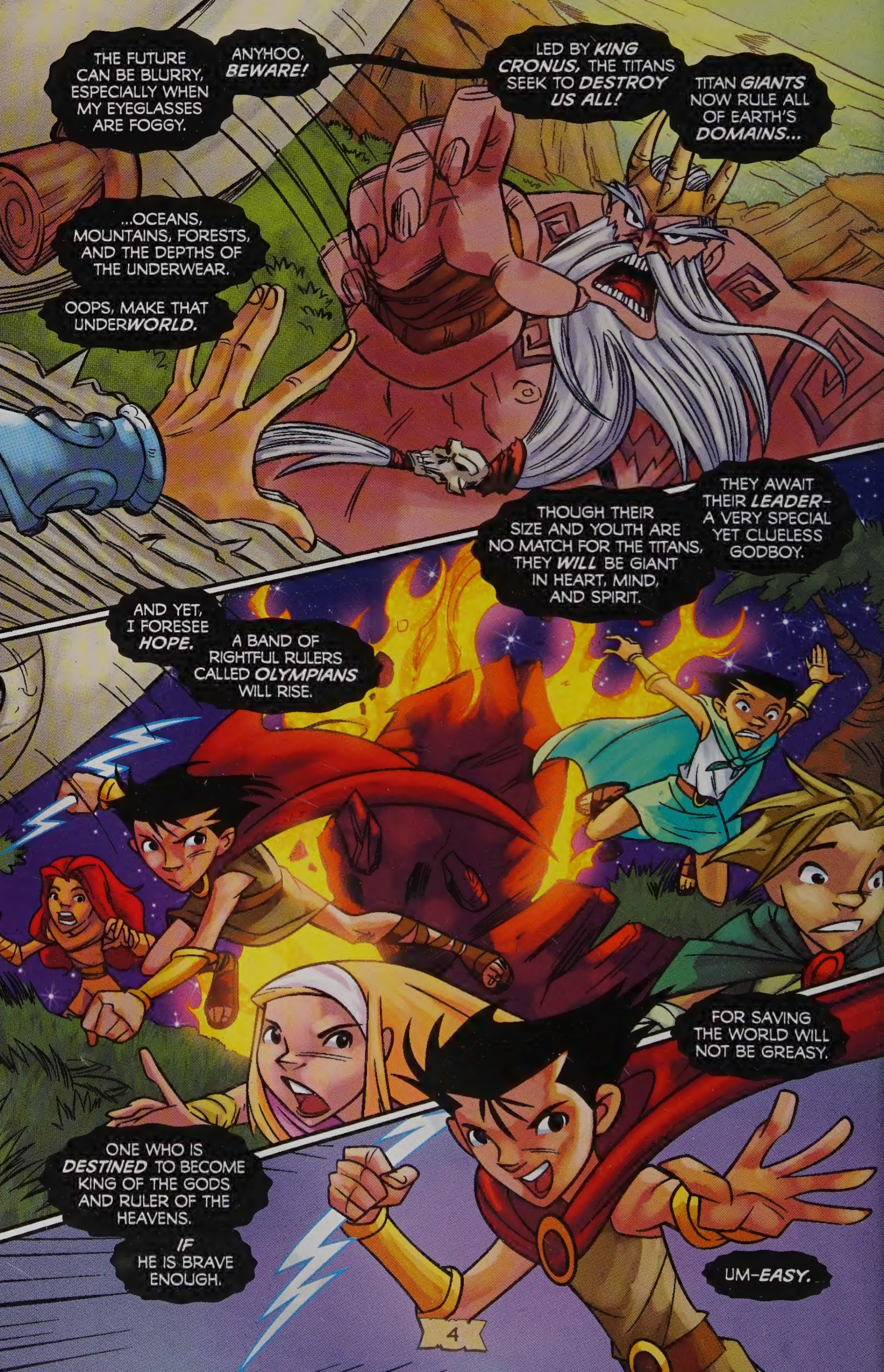
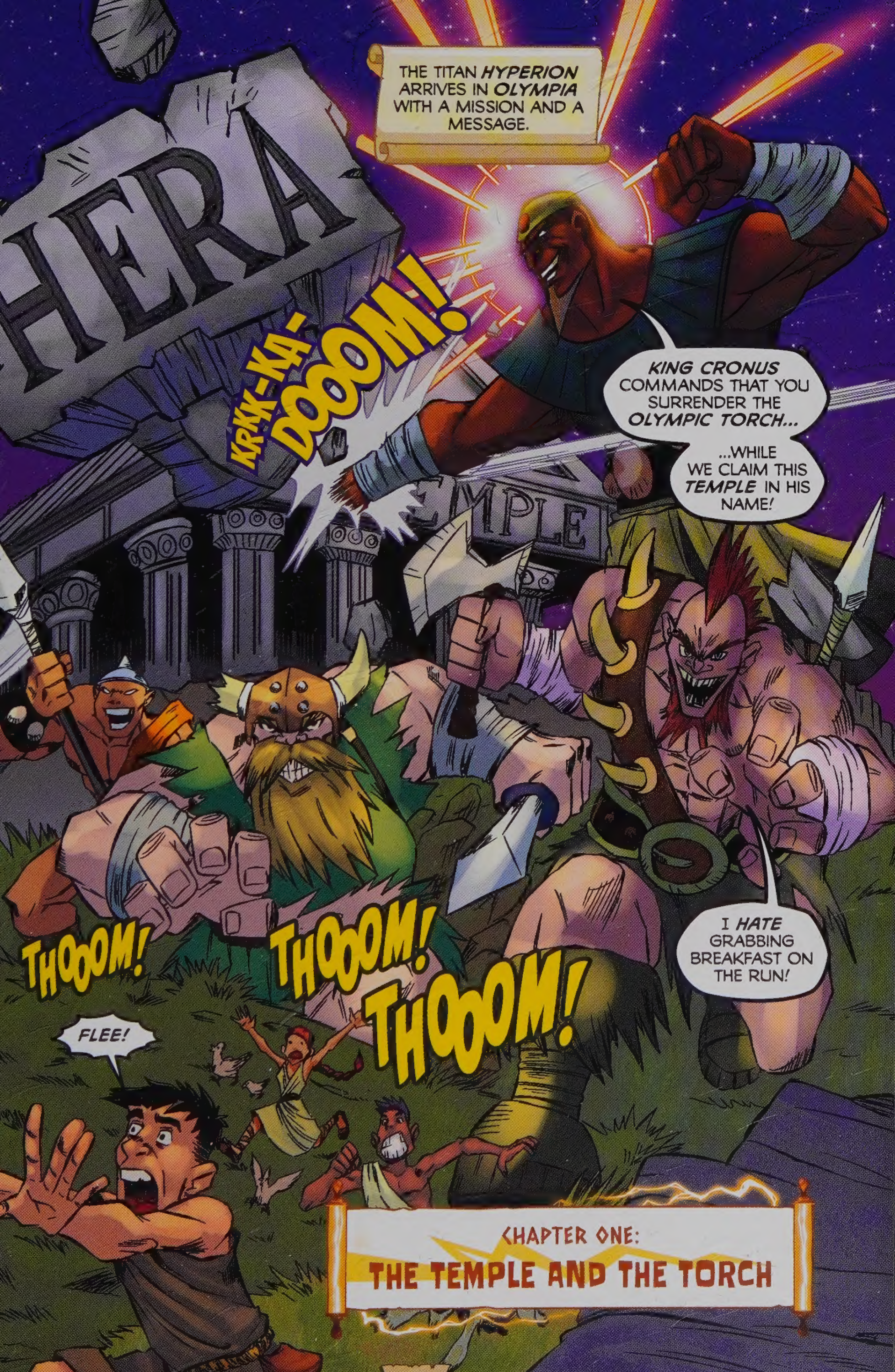
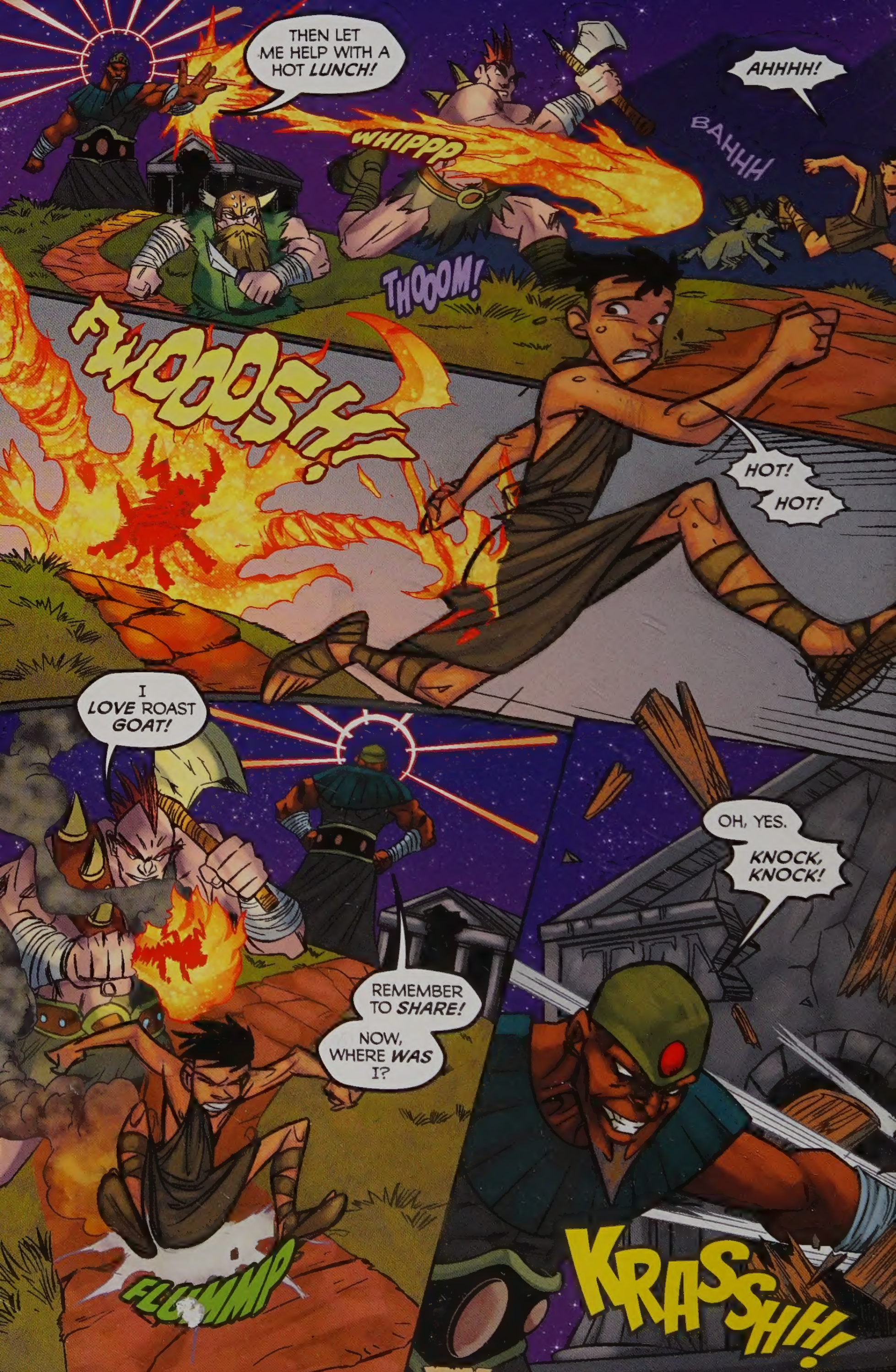

PROLOGUE:
HYPERION
HELLO, YOU. YES, *YOU!*
GREETINGS, MORTAL!
YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE KEPT ME WAITING...
...BECAUSE TIME IS OF THE *PEASANTS!*
I MEAN, THE *ESSENCE!*
I AM *PYTHIA,* THE *ORACLE OF DELPHI,* IN GREECE.
I HAVE THE POWER TO *SEE* THE FUTURE.
HEAR MY *PROPHECY:* AHEAD I SEE DANCERS LURKING.
WAIT–MAKE THAT *DANGER* LURKING!

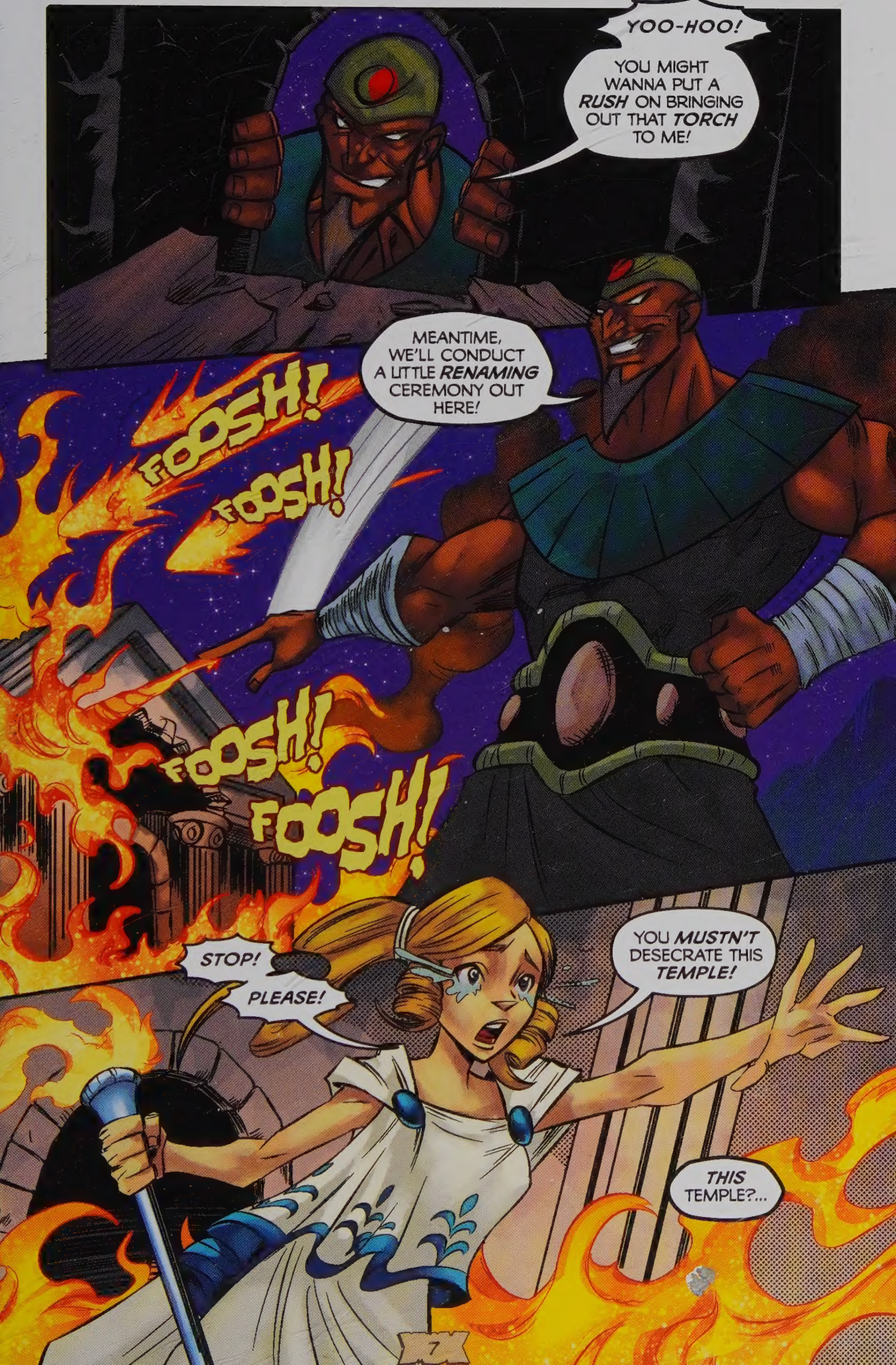

THE FUTURE CAN BE BLURRY, ESPECIALLY WHEN MY EYEGLASSES ARE FOGGY.
ANYHOO, BEWARE!
LED BY KING CRONUS, THE TITANS SEEK TO DESTROY US ALL!
TITAN GIANTS NOW RULE ALL OF EARTH'S DOMAINS...
...OCEANS, MOUNTAINS, FORESTS, AND THE DEPTHS OF THE UNDERWEAR.
OOPS, MAKE THAT UNDERWORLD.
AND YET, I FORESEE HOPE.
A BAND OF RIGHTFUL RULERS CALLED OLYMPIANS WILL RISE.
THOUGH THEIR SIZE AND YOUTH ARE NO MATCH FOR THE TITANS, THEY WILL BE GIANT IN HEART, MIND, AND SPIRIT.
THEY AWAIT THEIR LEADER– A VERY SPECIAL YET CLUELESS GODBOY.
ONE WHO IS DESTINED TO BECOME KING OF THE GODS AND RULER OF THE HEAVENS.
IF HE IS BRAVE ENOUGH.
FOR SAVING THE WORLD WILL NOT BE GREASY.
UM–EASY.


THE TITAN *HYPERION* ARRIVES IN *OLYMPIA* WITH A MISSION AND A MESSAGE.
HERA
TEMPLE
KRKK-KA-DOOOOM!
KING CRONUS COMMANDS THAT YOU SURRENDER THE *OLYMPIC TORCH*...
...WHILE WE CLAIM THIS *TEMPLE* IN HIS NAME!
I *HATE* GRABBING BREAKFAST ON THE RUN!
THOOOM!
THOOOM!
THOOOM!
FLEE!

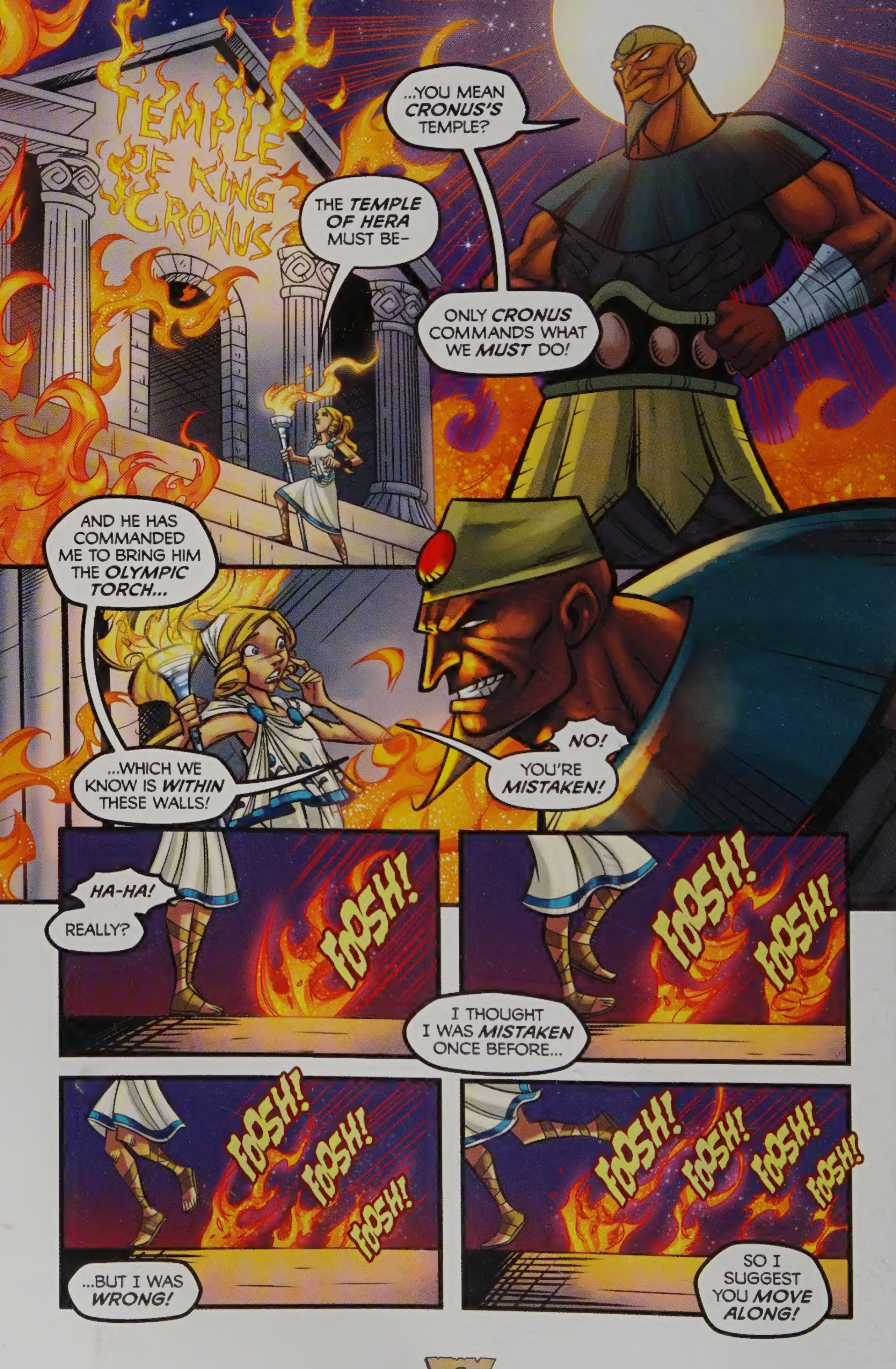
CHAPTER ONE:

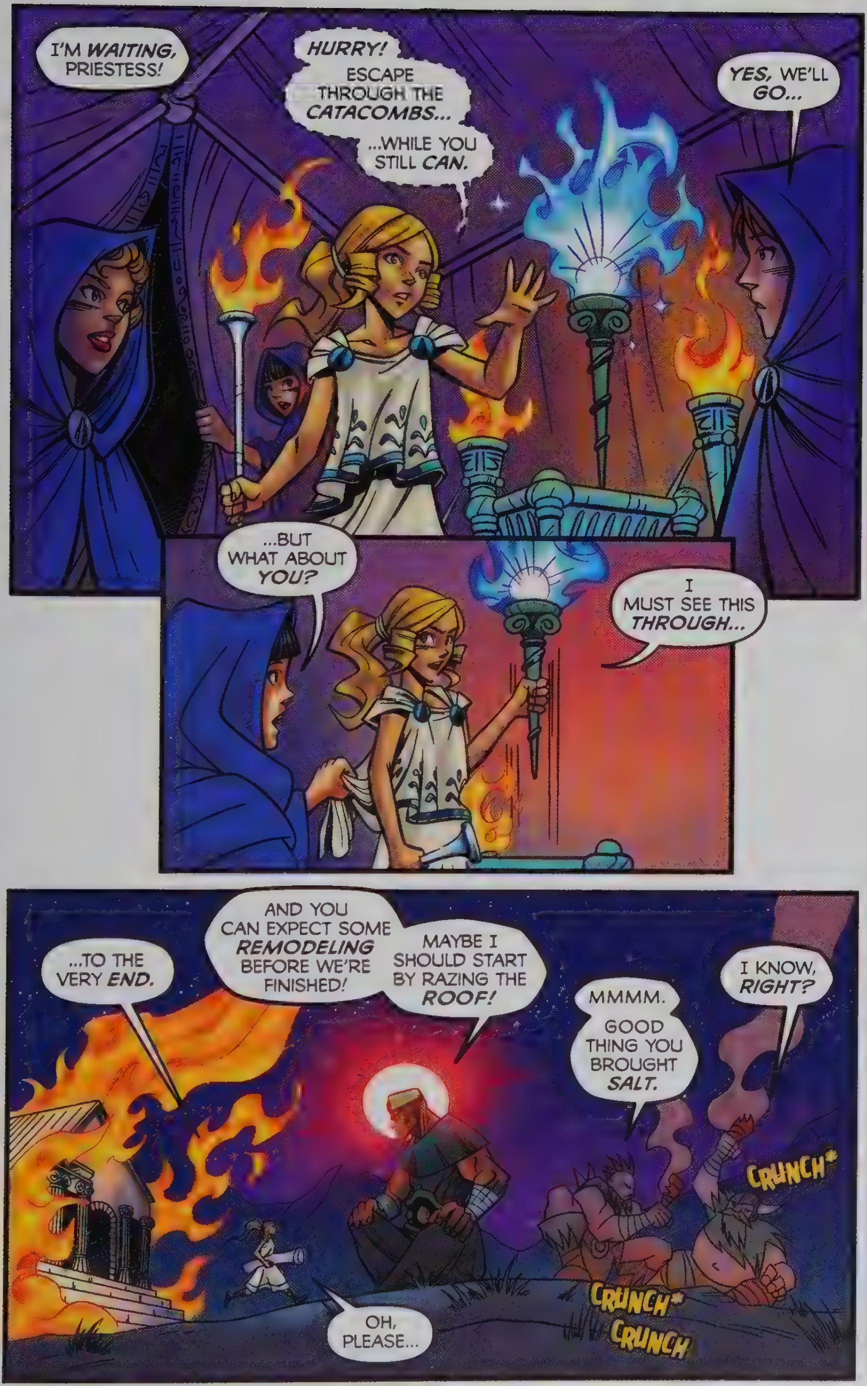
THE TEMPLE AND THE TORCH

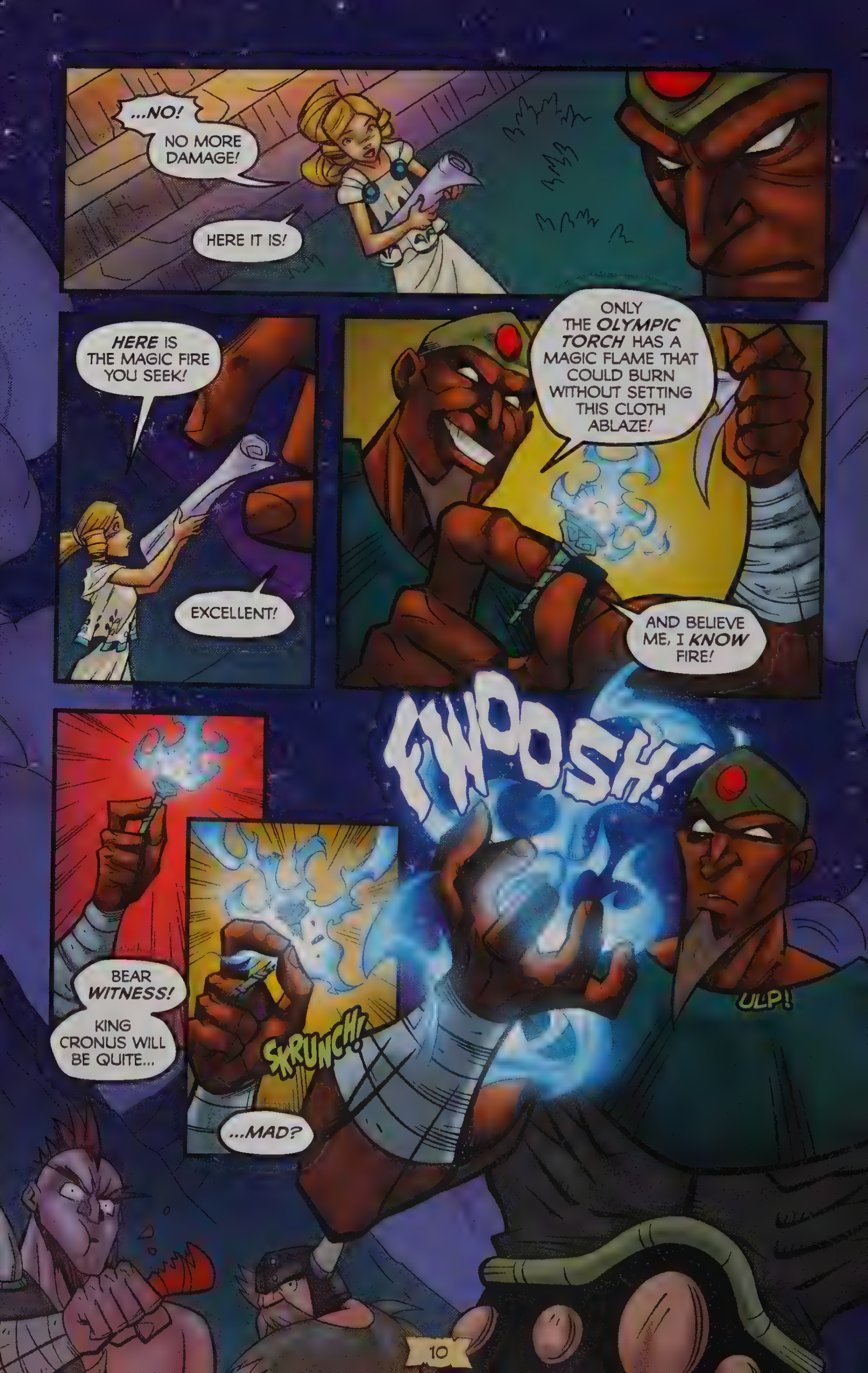

THEN LET ME HELP WITH A HOT *LUNCH!*
WHIPPP
AHHHH!
BAHHH
THOOOM!
FWOOSH!!
HOT!
HOT!
I *LOVE* ROAST *GOAT!*
REMEMBER TO *SHARE!*
NOW, WHERE *WAS* I?
FLUMMP
OH, YES.
KNOCK, KNOCK!
KRASSHH!

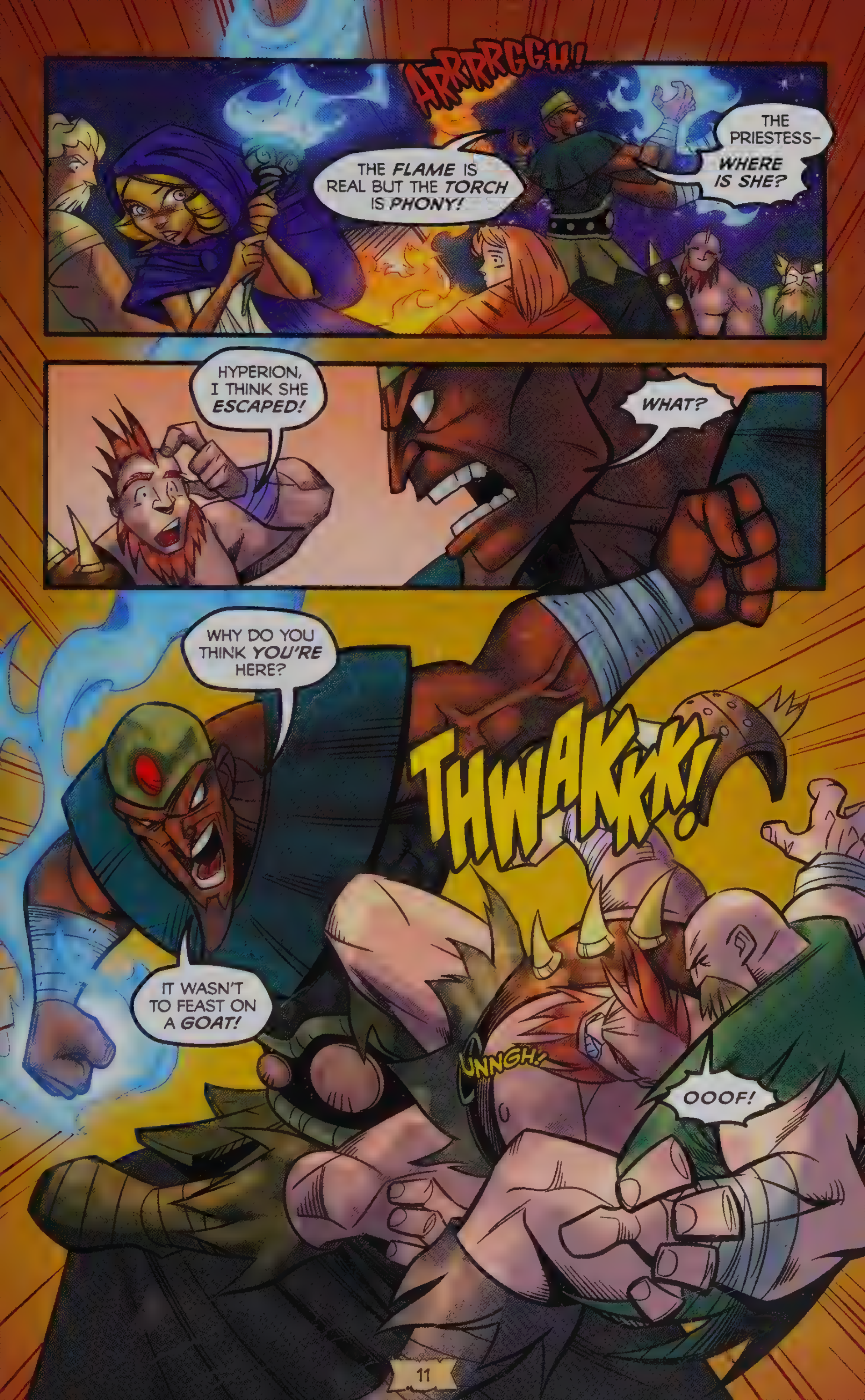


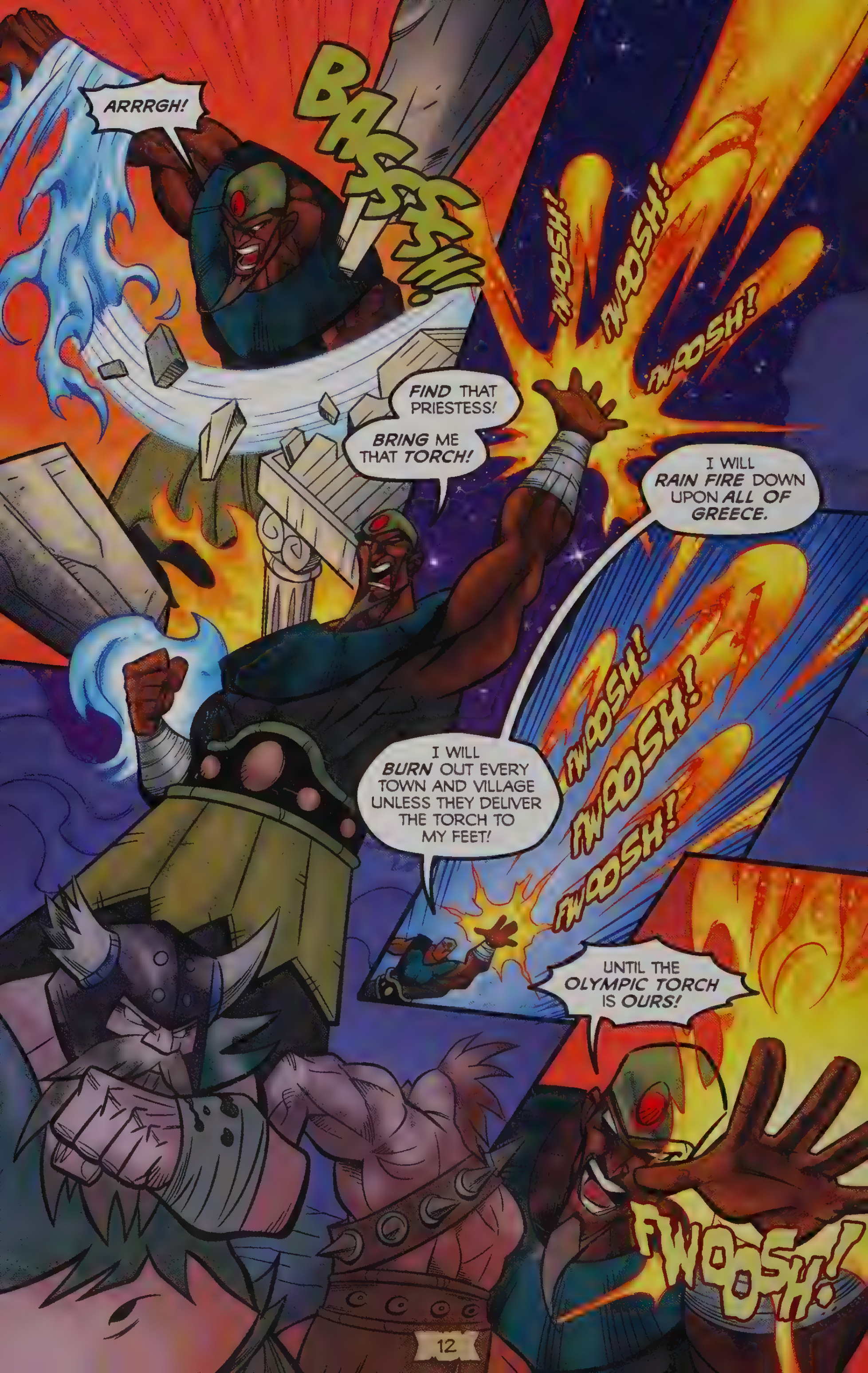
YOO-HOO!
YOU MIGHT WANNA PUT A **RUSH** ON BRINGING OUT THAT **TORCH** TO ME!
MEANTIME, WE'LL CONDUCT A LITTLE **RENAMING** CEREMONY OUT HERE!
FOOSH!
FOOSH!
FOOSH!
FOOSH!
STOP!
PLEASE!
YOU **MUSTN'T** DESECRATE THIS **TEMPLE!**
THIS TEMPLE?...


TEMPLE OF KING CRONUS
THE TEMPLE OF HERA MUST BE-
...YOU MEAN CRONUS'S TEMPLE?
ONLY CRONUS COMMANDS WHAT WE MUST DO!
AND HE HAS COMMANDED ME TO BRING HIM THE OLYMPIC TORCH...
...WHICH WE KNOW IS WITHIN THESE WALLS!
NO!
YOU'RE MISTAKEN!
HA-HA!
REALLY?
FOOSH!
FOOSH!
FOOSH!
I THOUGHT I WAS MISTAKEN ONCE BEFORE...
FOOSH!
FOOSH!
FOOSH!
...BUT I WAS WRONG!
FOOSH!
FOOSH!
FOOSH!
FOOSH!
SO I SUGGEST YOU MOVE ALONG!

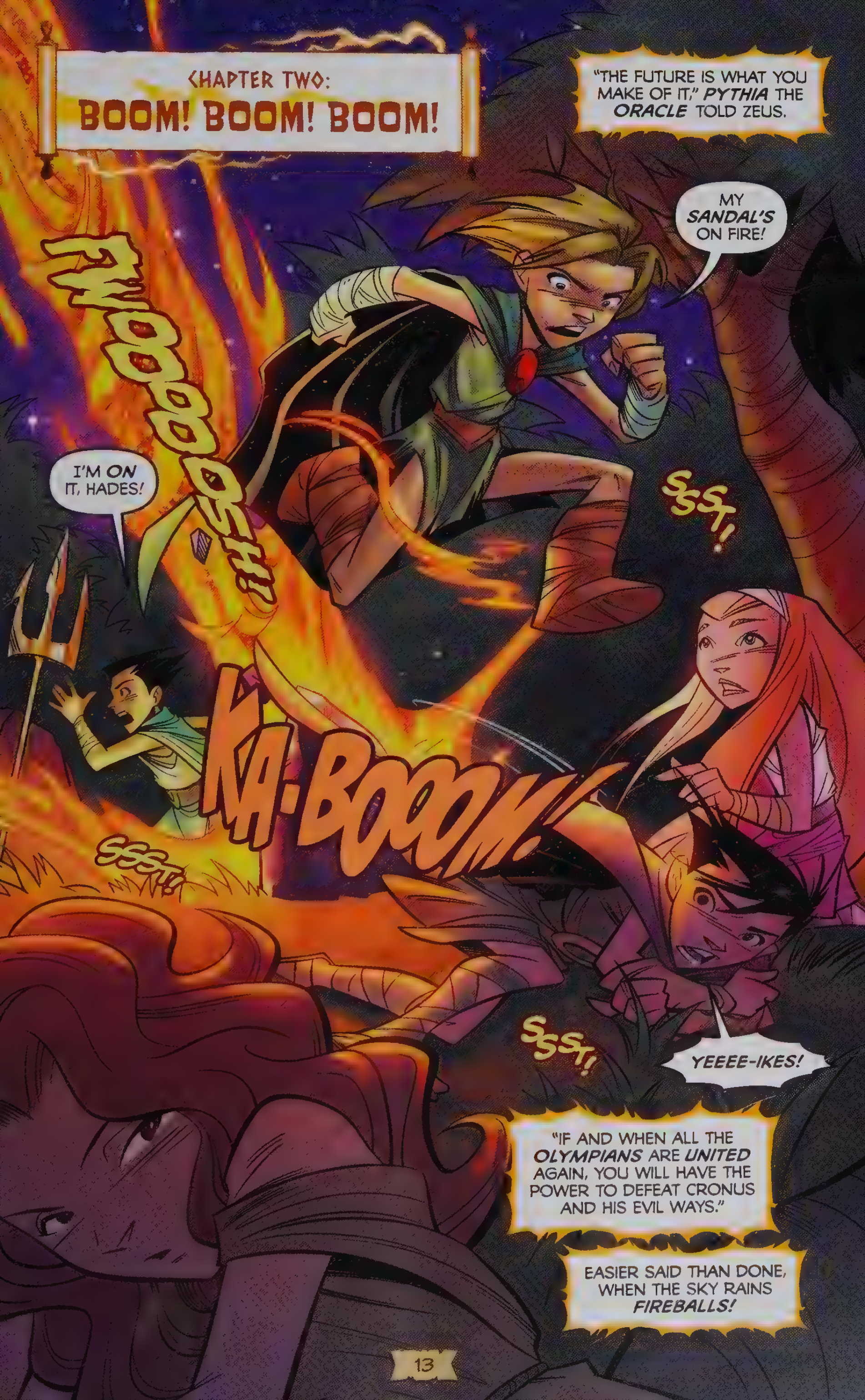

I'M *WAITING,* PRIESTESS!
HURRY! ESCAPE THROUGH THE *CATACOMBS...*
...WHILE YOU STILL *CAN.*
YES, WE'LL *GO...*
...BUT WHAT ABOUT *YOU?*
I MUST SEE THIS *THROUGH...*
...TO THE VERY *END.*
AND YOU CAN EXPECT SOME *REMODELING* BEFORE WE'RE FINISHED!
MAYBE I SHOULD START BY RAZING THE *ROOF!*
MMMM.
GOOD THING YOU BROUGHT *SALT.*
I KNOW, *RIGHT?*
CRUNCH*
CRUNCH*
CRUNCH
OH, PLEASE...

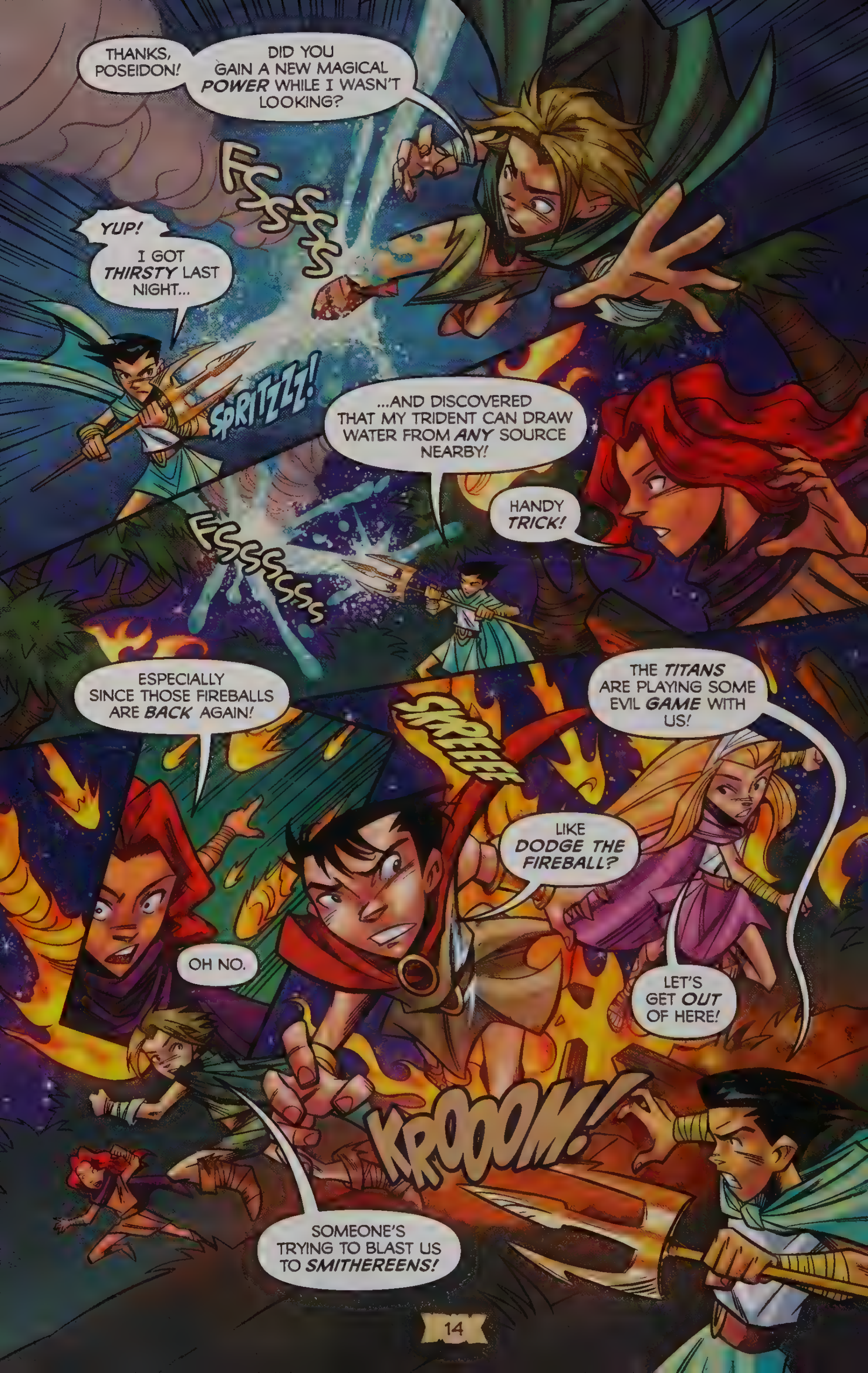

...NO!
NO MORE DAMAGE!
HERE IT IS!
HERE IS THE MAGIC FIRE YOU SEEK!
EXCELLENT!
ONLY THE OLYMPIC TORCH HAS A MAGIC FLAME THAT COULD BURN WITHOUT SETTING THIS CLOTH ABLAZE!
AND BELIEVE ME, I KNOW FIRE!
FWOOSH!
BEAR WITNESS!
KING CRONUS WILL BE QUITE...
SKRUNCH!
...MAD?
ULP!

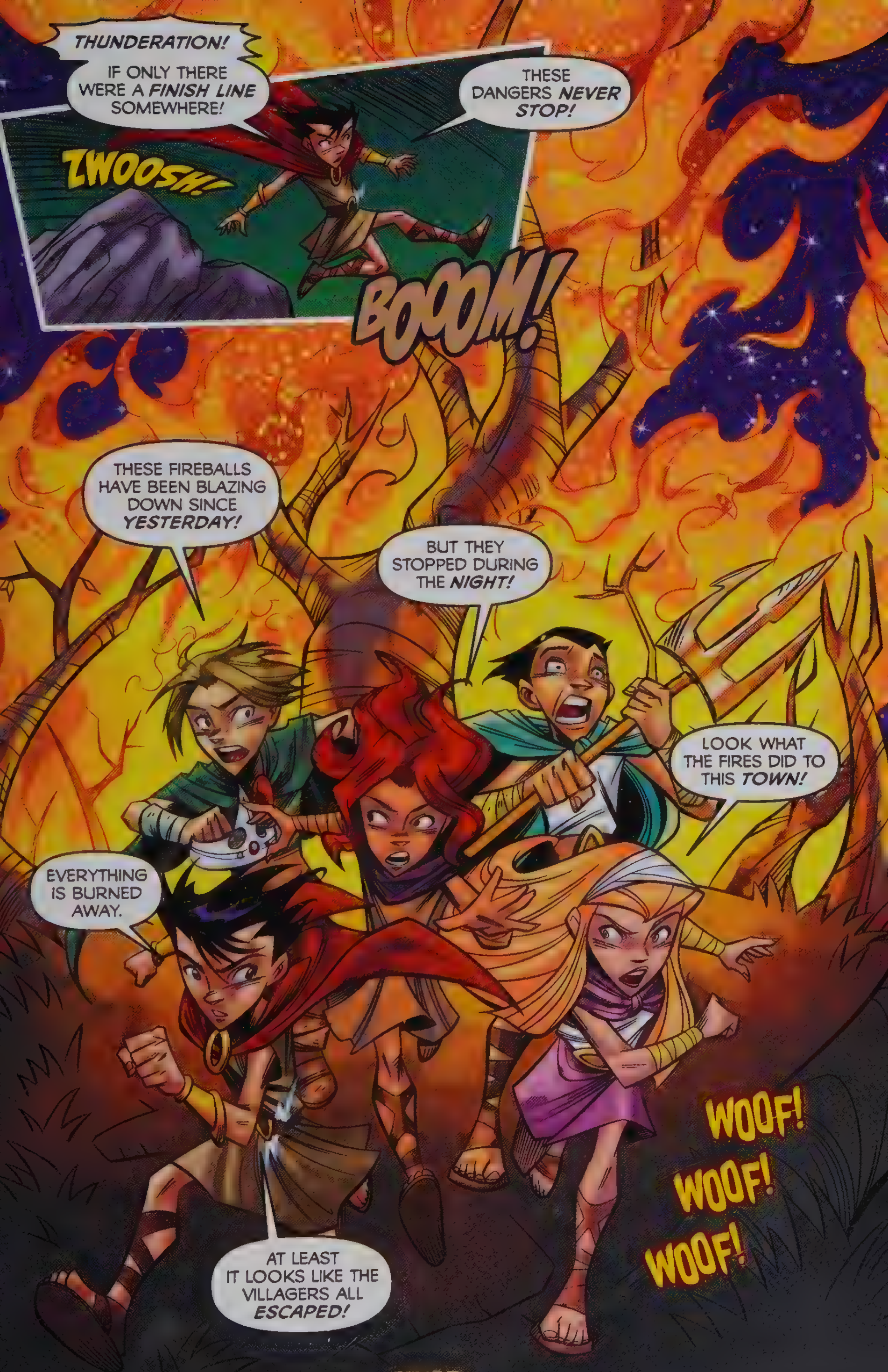

ARRRRGGH!
THE FLAME IS REAL BUT THE TORCH IS PHONY!
THE PRIESTESS– WHERE IS SHE?
HYPERION, I THINK SHE ESCAPED!
WHAT?
WHY DO YOU THINK YOU'RE HERE?
IT WASN'T TO FEAST ON A GOAT!
THWAKKK!
UNNGH!
OOOF!

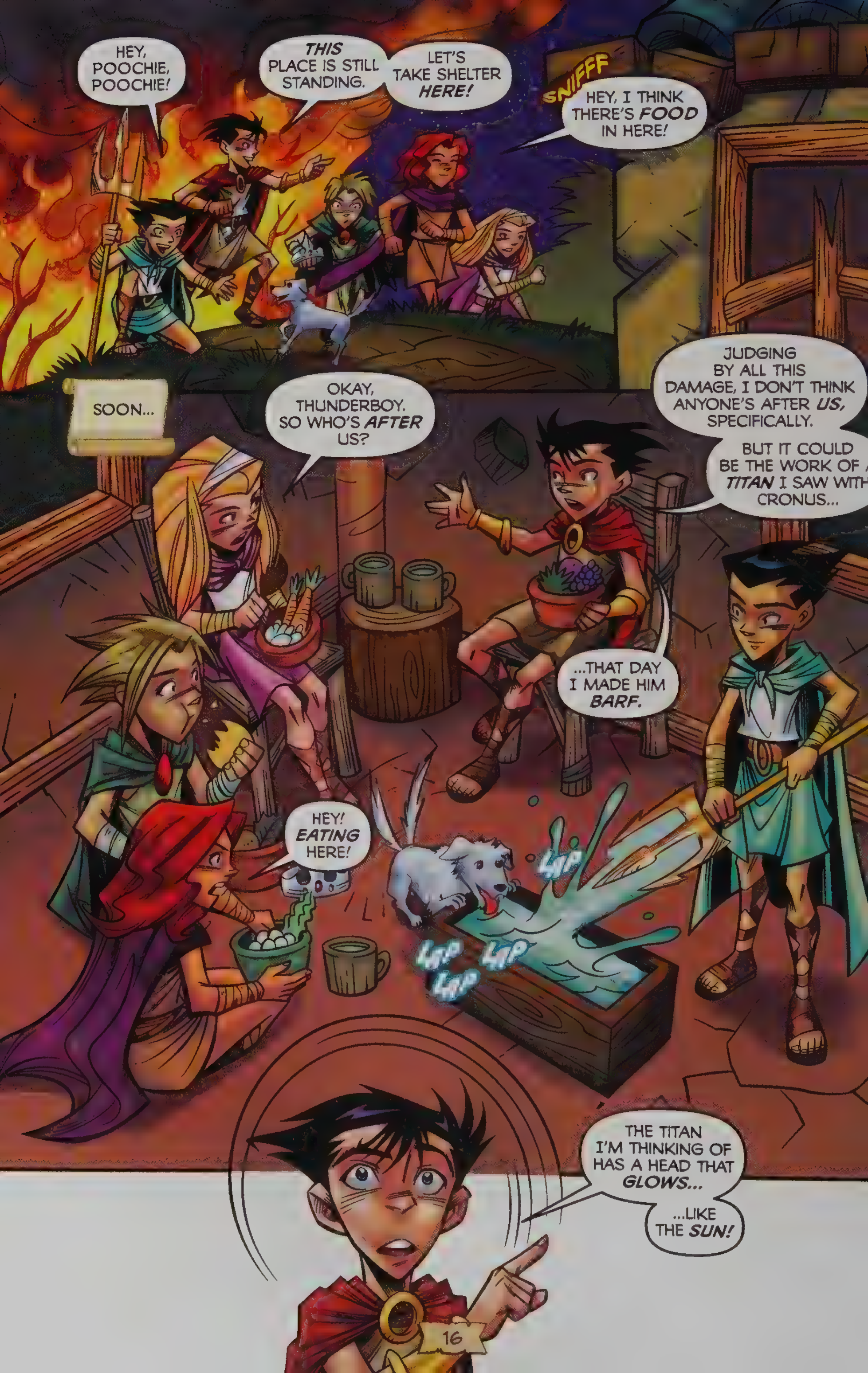

ARRRGH!
BASSSH!
FIND THAT PRIESTESS!
BRING ME THAT TORCH!
FWOOSH!
FWOOSH!
FWOOSH!
I WILL RAIN FIRE DOWN UPON ALL OF GREECE.
FWOOSH!
FWOOSH!
FWOOSH!
I WILL BURN OUT EVERY TOWN AND VILLAGE UNLESS THEY DELIVER THE TORCH TO MY FEET!
UNTIL THE OLYMPIC TORCH IS OURS!
FWOOSH!

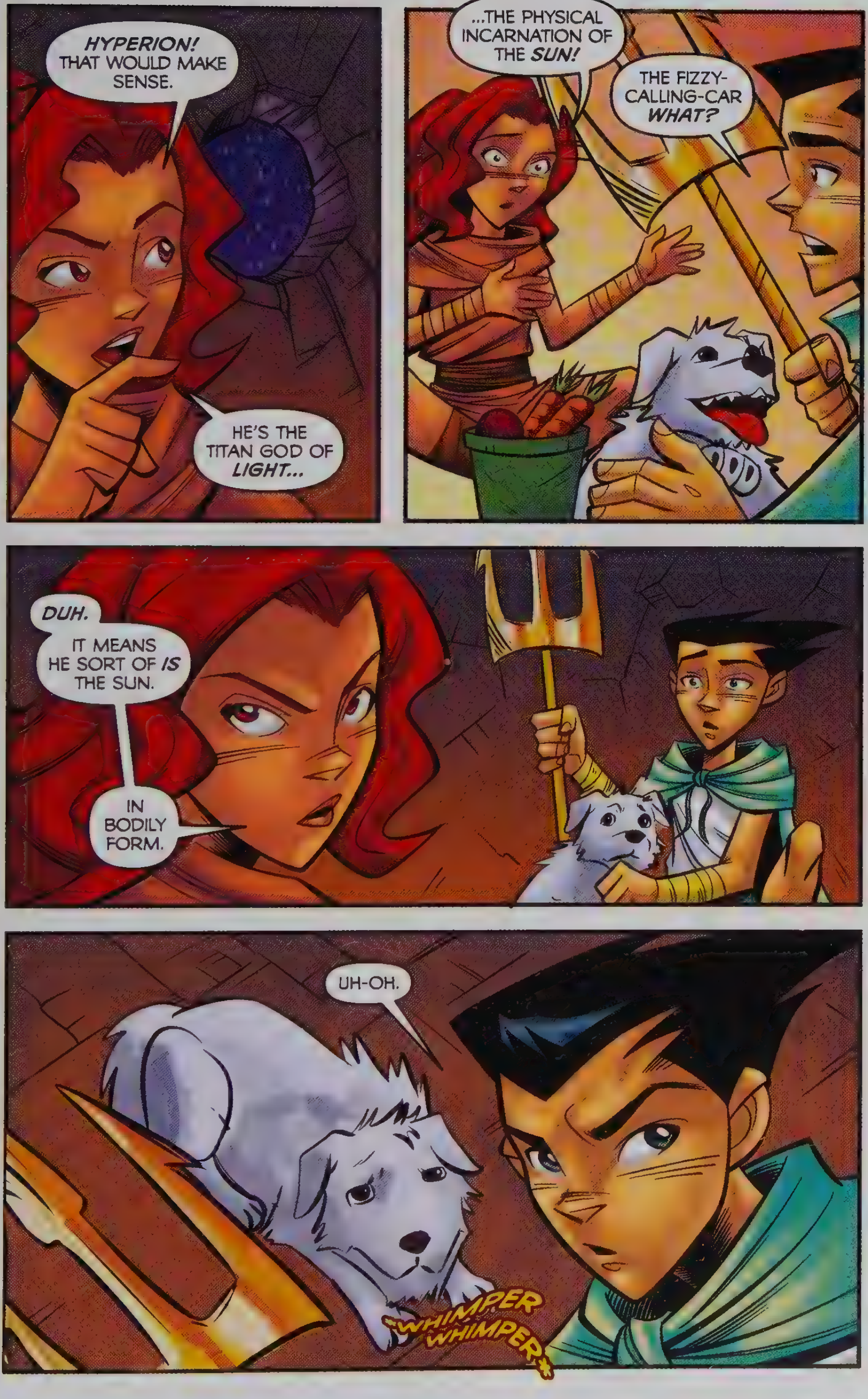
CHAPTER TWO:
BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

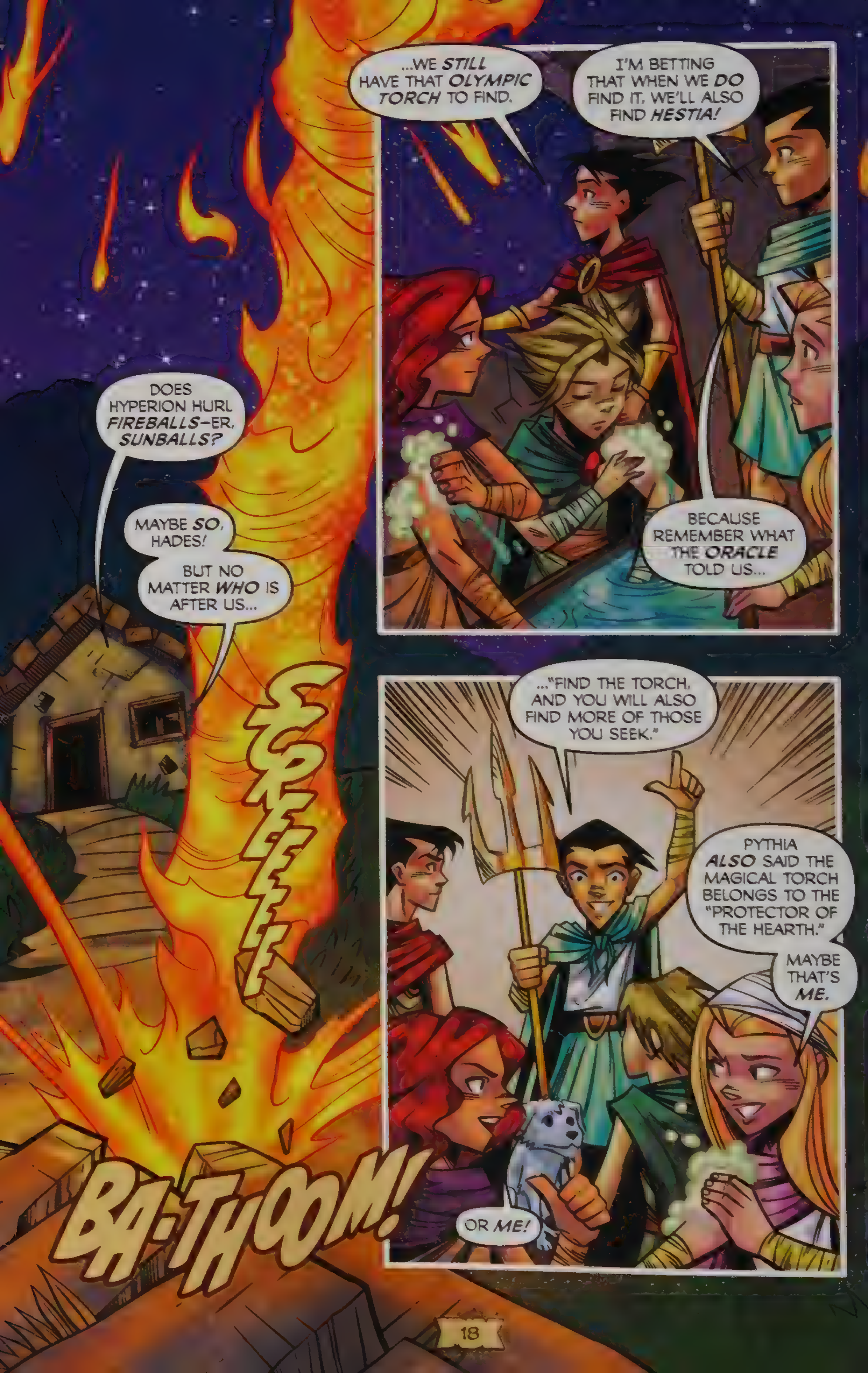

"THE FUTURE IS WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT," *PYTHIA* THE *ORACLE* TOLD ZEUS.
MY *SANDAL'S* ON FIRE!
FWOOOOOSH!!
I'M *ON* IT, HADES!
SSST!
KA-BOOOM!!
SSST!!
SSST!
YEEEE-IKES!
"IF AND WHEN ALL THE *OLYMPIANS* ARE *UNITED* AGAIN, YOU WILL HAVE THE POWER TO DEFEAT CRONUS AND HIS EVIL WAYS."
EASIER SAID THAN DONE, WHEN THE SKY RAINS *FIREBALLS!*

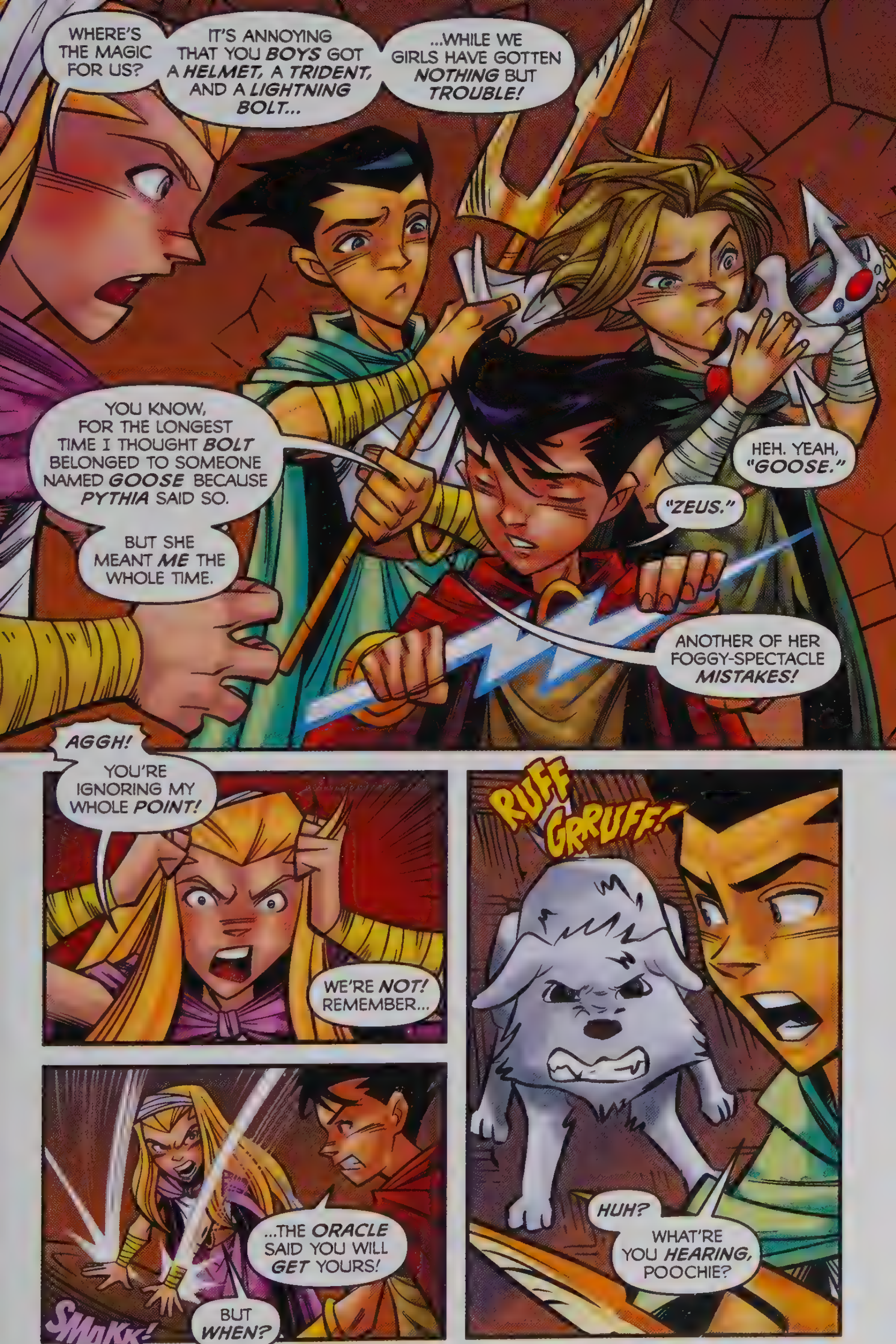

THANKS, POSEIDON!
DID YOU GAIN A NEW MAGICAL *POWER* WHILE I WASN'T LOOKING?
FSSSSS
YUP!
I GOT *THIRSTY* LAST NIGHT...
SPRITZZZ!
...AND DISCOVERED THAT MY TRIDENT CAN DRAW WATER FROM *ANY* SOURCE NEARBY!
HANDY *TRICK!*
FSSSSSSS
ESPECIALLY SINCE THOSE FIREBALLS ARE *BACK* AGAIN!
SKREEEE
THE *TITANS* ARE PLAYING SOME EVIL *GAME* WITH US!
LIKE *DODGE THE FIREBALL?*
OH NO.
LET'S GET *OUT* OF HERE!
KROOOM!
SOMEONE'S TRYING TO BLAST US TO *SMITHEREENS!*

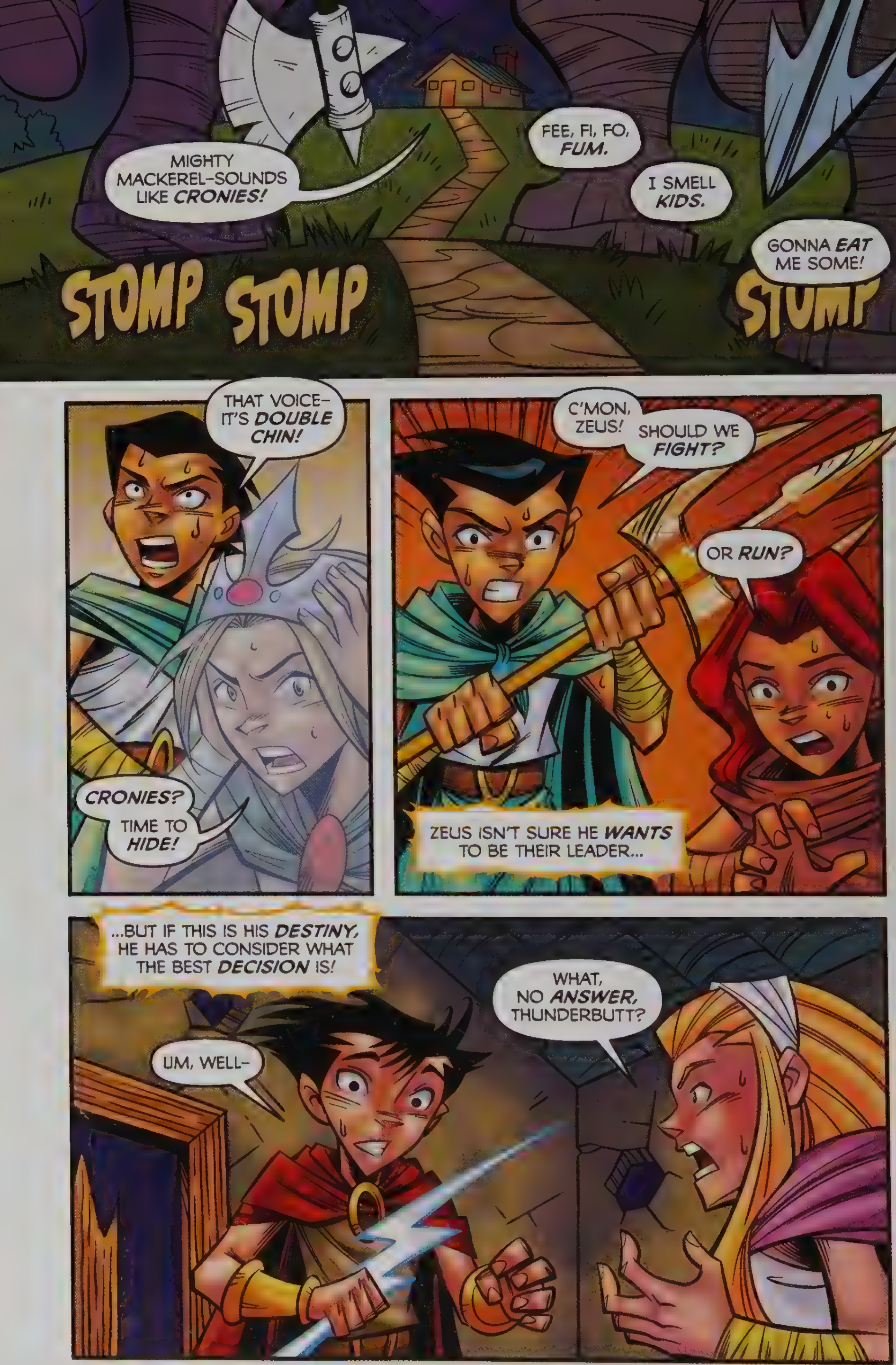

THUNDERATION!
IF ONLY THERE WERE A *FINISH LINE* SOMEWHERE!
THESE DANGERS *NEVER STOP!*
ZWOOSH!
BOOOM!
THESE FIREBALLS HAVE BEEN BLAZING DOWN SINCE *YESTERDAY!*
BUT THEY STOPPED DURING THE *NIGHT!*
LOOK WHAT THE FIRES DID TO THIS *TOWN!*
EVERYTHING IS BURNED AWAY.
WOOF! WOOF! WOOF!
AT LEAST IT LOOKS LIKE THE VILLAGERS ALL *ESCAPED!*

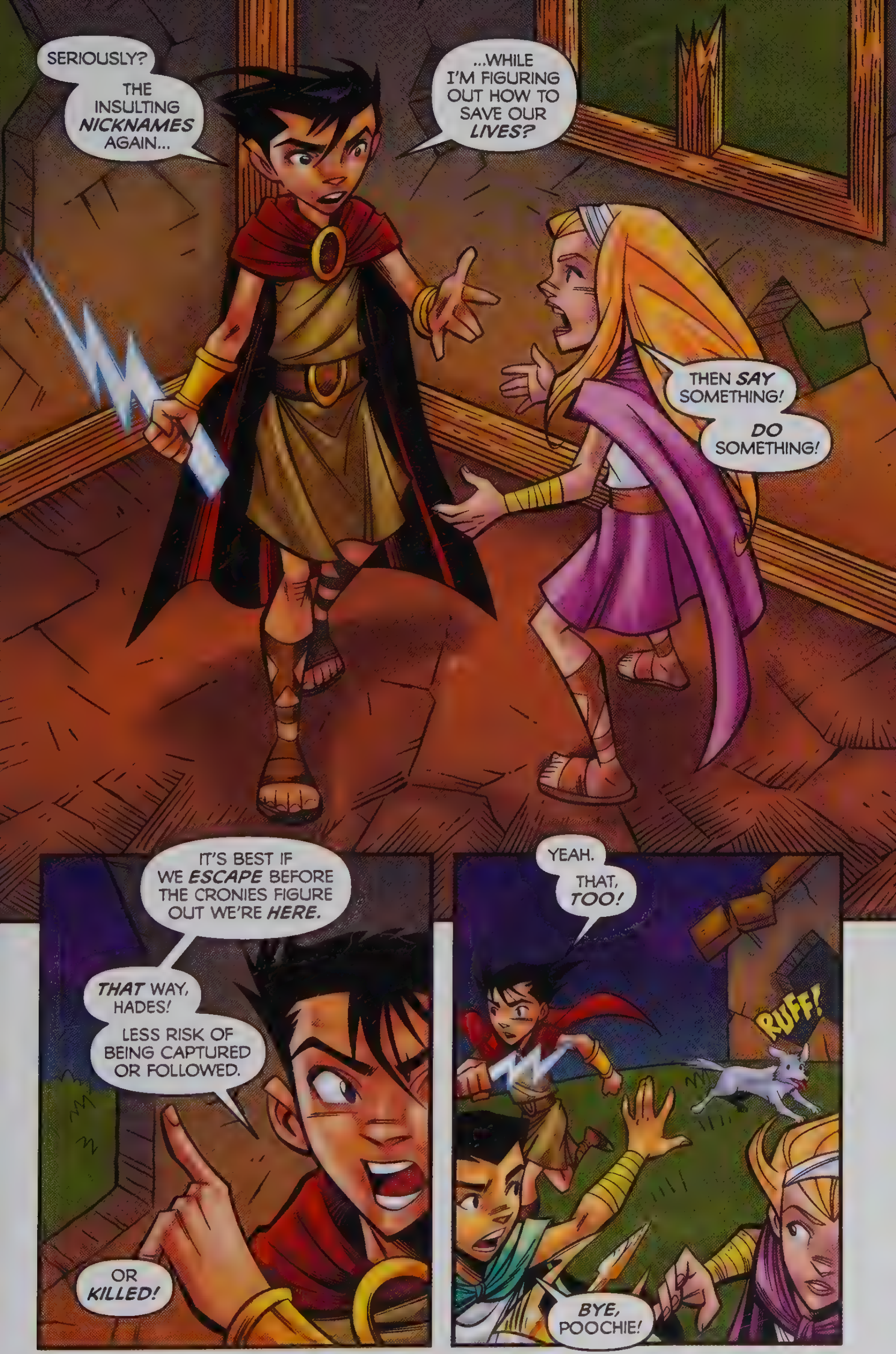

HEY, POOCHIE, POOCHIE!
THIS PLACE IS STILL STANDING.
LET'S TAKE SHELTER *HERE!*
SNIFFF
HEY, I THINK THERE'S *FOOD* IN HERE!
SOON...
OKAY, THUNDERBOY. SO WHO'S *AFTER* US?
JUDGING BY ALL THIS DAMAGE, I DON'T THINK ANYONE'S AFTER *US,* SPECIFICALLY.
BUT IT COULD BE THE WORK OF *TITAN* I SAW WITH CRONUS...
...THAT DAY I MADE HIM *BARF.*
HEY! *EATING* HERE!
LAP
LAP
LAP
LAP
THE TITAN I'M THINKING OF HAS A HEAD THAT *GLOWS...*
...LIKE THE *SUN!*

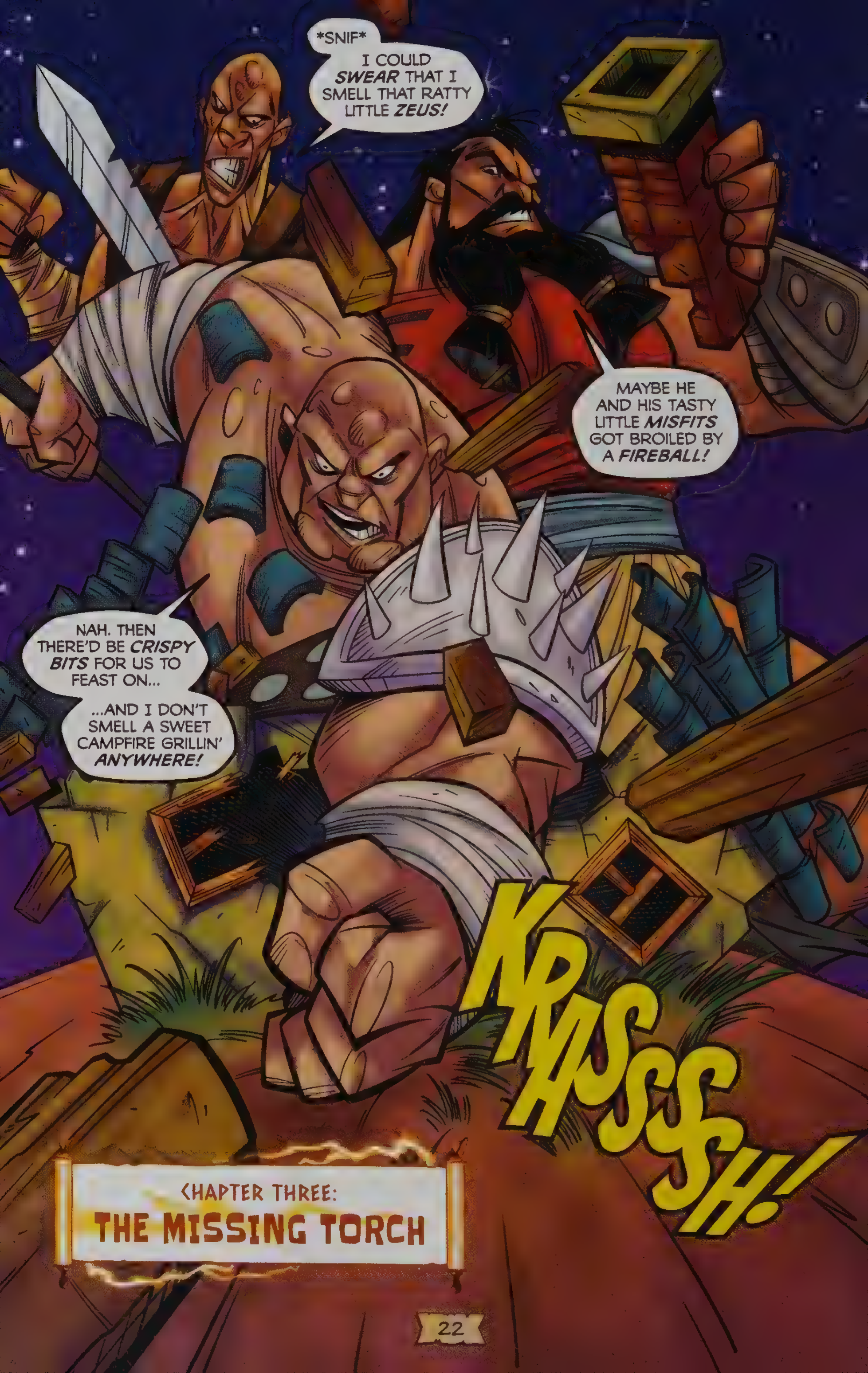

HYPERION! THAT WOULD MAKE SENSE.
HE'S THE TITAN GOD OF *LIGHT...*
...THE PHYSICAL INCARNATION OF THE *SUN!*
THE FIZZY-CALLING-CAR *WHAT?*
DUH.
IT MEANS HE SORT OF *IS* THE SUN.
IN BODILY FORM.
UH-OH.
WHIMPER WHIMPER


DOES HYPERION HURL *FIREBALLS*—ER, *SUNBALLS?*
MAYBE *SO*, HADES!
BUT NO MATTER *WHO* IS AFTER US...
...WE *STILL* HAVE THAT *OLYMPIC TORCH* TO FIND.
I'M BETTING THAT WHEN WE *DO* FIND IT, WE'LL ALSO FIND *HESTIA!*
BECAUSE REMEMBER WHAT THE *ORACLE* TOLD US...
SCREEEEE
BA-THOOM!
..."FIND THE TORCH, AND YOU WILL ALSO FIND MORE OF THOSE YOU SEEK."
PYTHIA *ALSO* SAID THE MAGICAL TORCH BELONGS TO THE "PROTECTOR OF THE HEARTH."
MAYBE THAT'S *ME.*
OR *ME!*

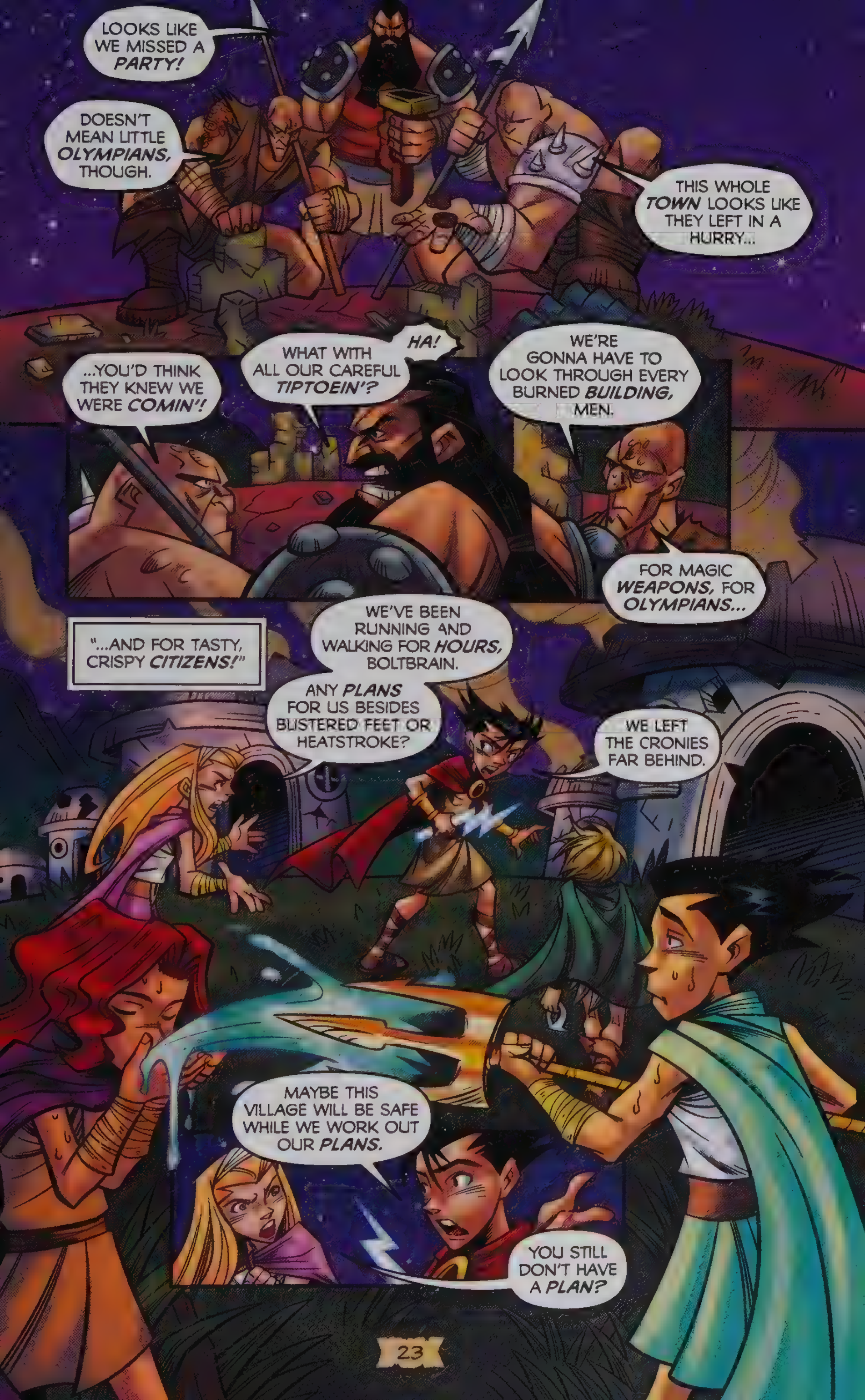

WHERE'S THE MAGIC FOR US?
IT'S ANNOYING THAT YOU *BOYS* GOT A *HELMET*, A *TRIDENT*, AND A *LIGHTNING BOLT*...
...WHILE WE GIRLS HAVE GOTTEN *NOTHING* BUT *TROUBLE!*
YOU KNOW, FOR THE LONGEST TIME I THOUGHT *BOLT* BELONGED TO SOMEONE NAMED *GOOSE* BECAUSE *PYTHIA* SAID SO.
BUT SHE MEANT *ME* THE WHOLE TIME.
HEH. YEAH, *"GOOSE."*
"ZEUS."
ANOTHER OF HER FOGGY-SPECTACLE *MISTAKES!*
AGGH!
YOU'RE IGNORING MY WHOLE *POINT!*
WE'RE *NOT!* REMEMBER...
...THE *ORACLE* SAID YOU WILL *GET* YOURS!
BUT *WHEN?*
SMAKK!
RUFF GRRUFF!
HUH?
WHAT'RE YOU *HEARING*, POOCHIE?

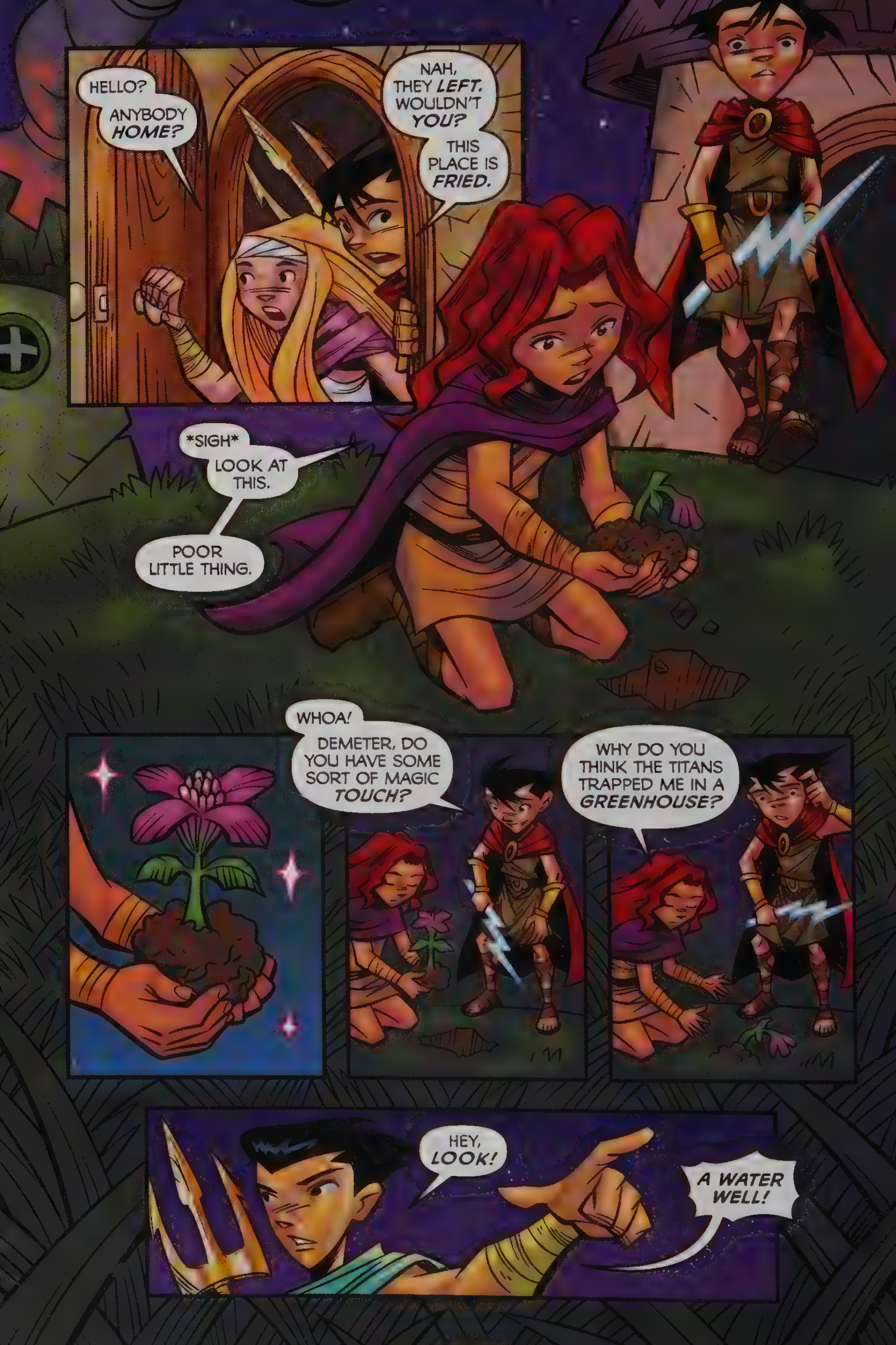

MIGHTY MACKEREL–SOUNDS LIKE *CRONIES!*
FEE, FI, FO, *FUM.*
I SMELL *KIDS.*
GONNA *EAT* ME SOME!
STOMP STOMP
STOMP
THAT VOICE– IT'S *DOUBLE CHIN!*
CRONIES? TIME TO *HIDE!*
C'MON, ZEUS!
SHOULD WE *FIGHT?*
OR *RUN?*
ZEUS ISN'T SURE HE *WANTS* TO BE THEIR LEADER...
...BUT IF THIS IS HIS *DESTINY,* HE HAS TO CONSIDER WHAT THE BEST *DECISION* IS!
UM, WELL–
WHAT, NO *ANSWER,* THUNDERBUTT?

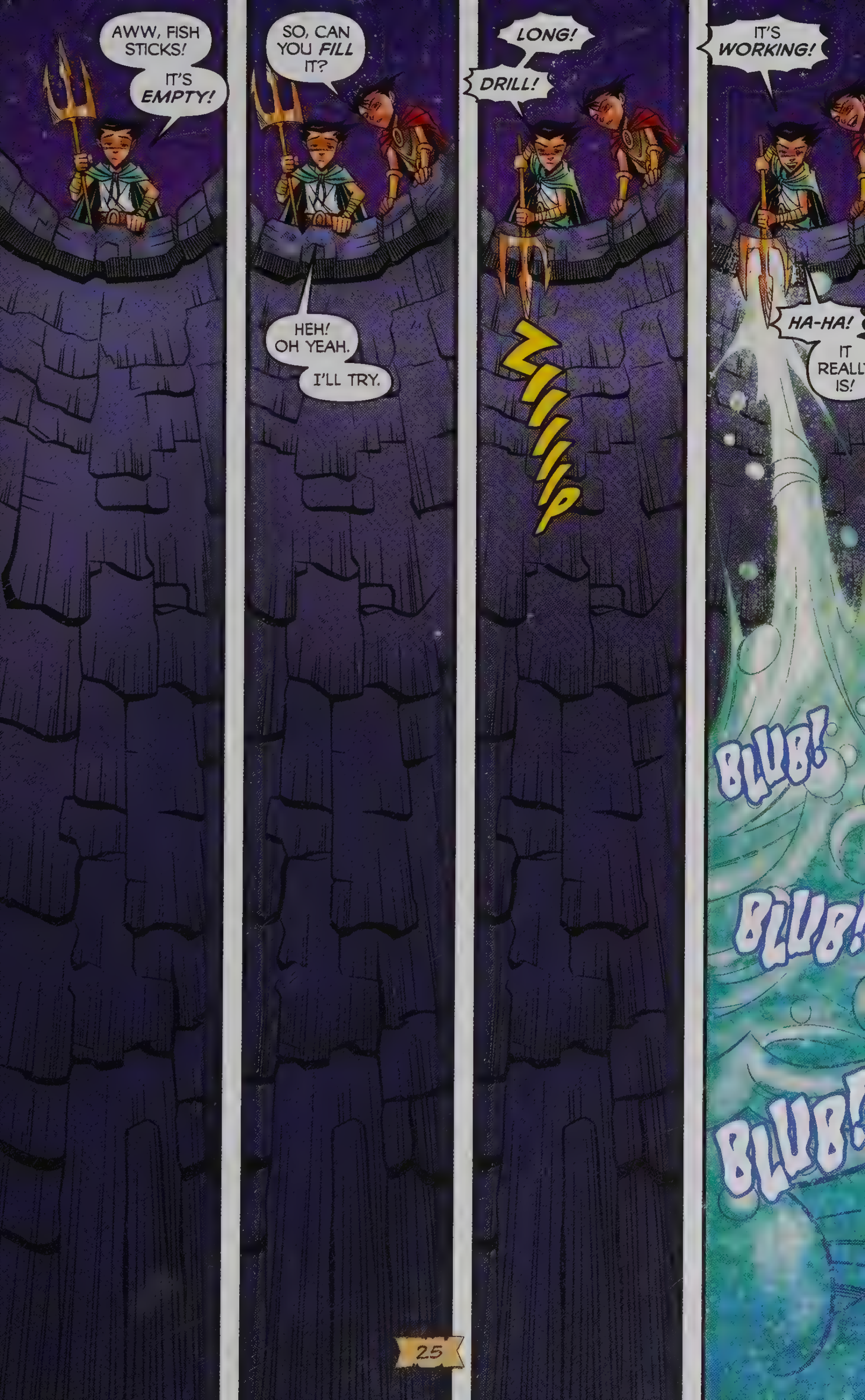

SERIOUSLY?
THE INSULTING *NICKNAMES* AGAIN...
...WHILE I'M FIGURING OUT HOW TO SAVE OUR *LIVES?*
THEN *SAY* SOMETHING!
DO SOMETHING!
IT'S BEST IF WE *ESCAPE* BEFORE THE CRONIES FIGURE OUT WE'RE *HERE.*
THAT WAY, HADES!
LESS RISK OF BEING CAPTURED OR FOLLOWED.
OR *KILLED!*
YEAH.
THAT, *TOO!*
RUFF!
BYE, POOCHIE!

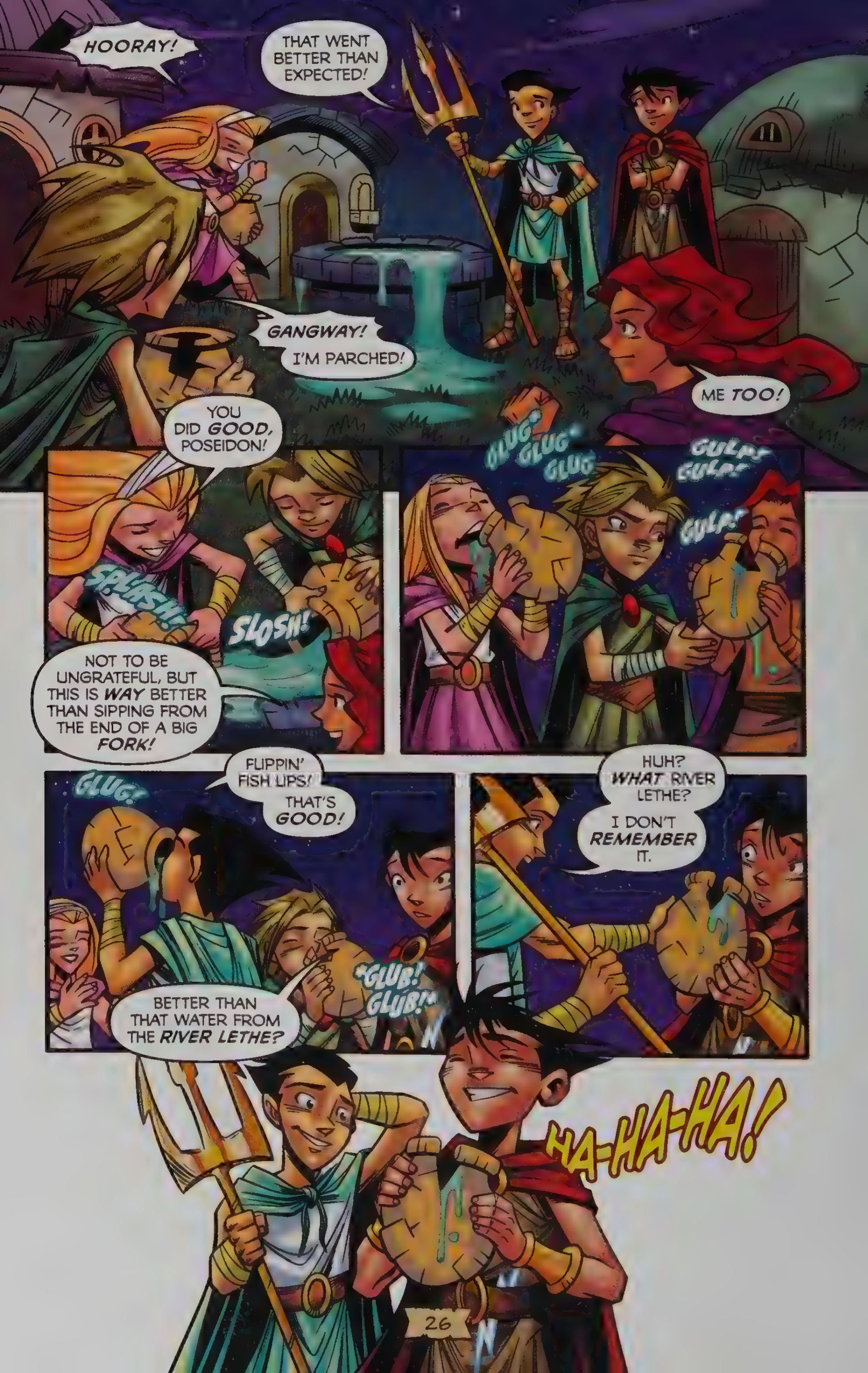

SNIF
I COULD *SWEAR* THAT I SMELL THAT RATTY LITTLE *ZEUS!*
MAYBE HE AND HIS TASTY LITTLE *MISFITS* GOT BROILED BY A *FIREBALL!*
NAH. THEN THERE'D BE *CRISPY BITS* FOR US TO FEAST ON...
...AND I DON'T SMELL A SWEET CAMPFIRE GRILLIN' *ANYWHERE!*
KRASSSH!

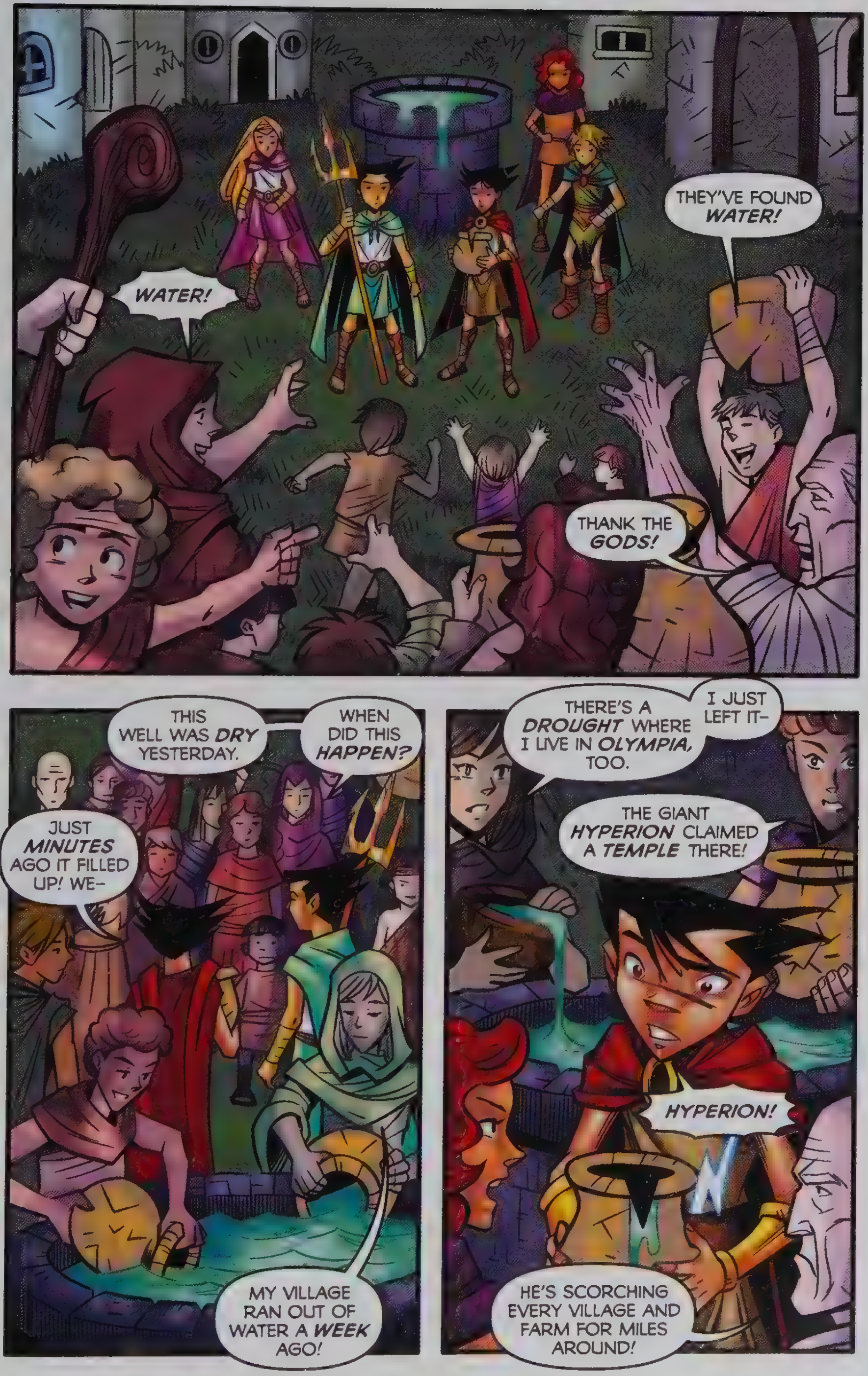
CHAPTER THREE:
THE MISSING TORCH

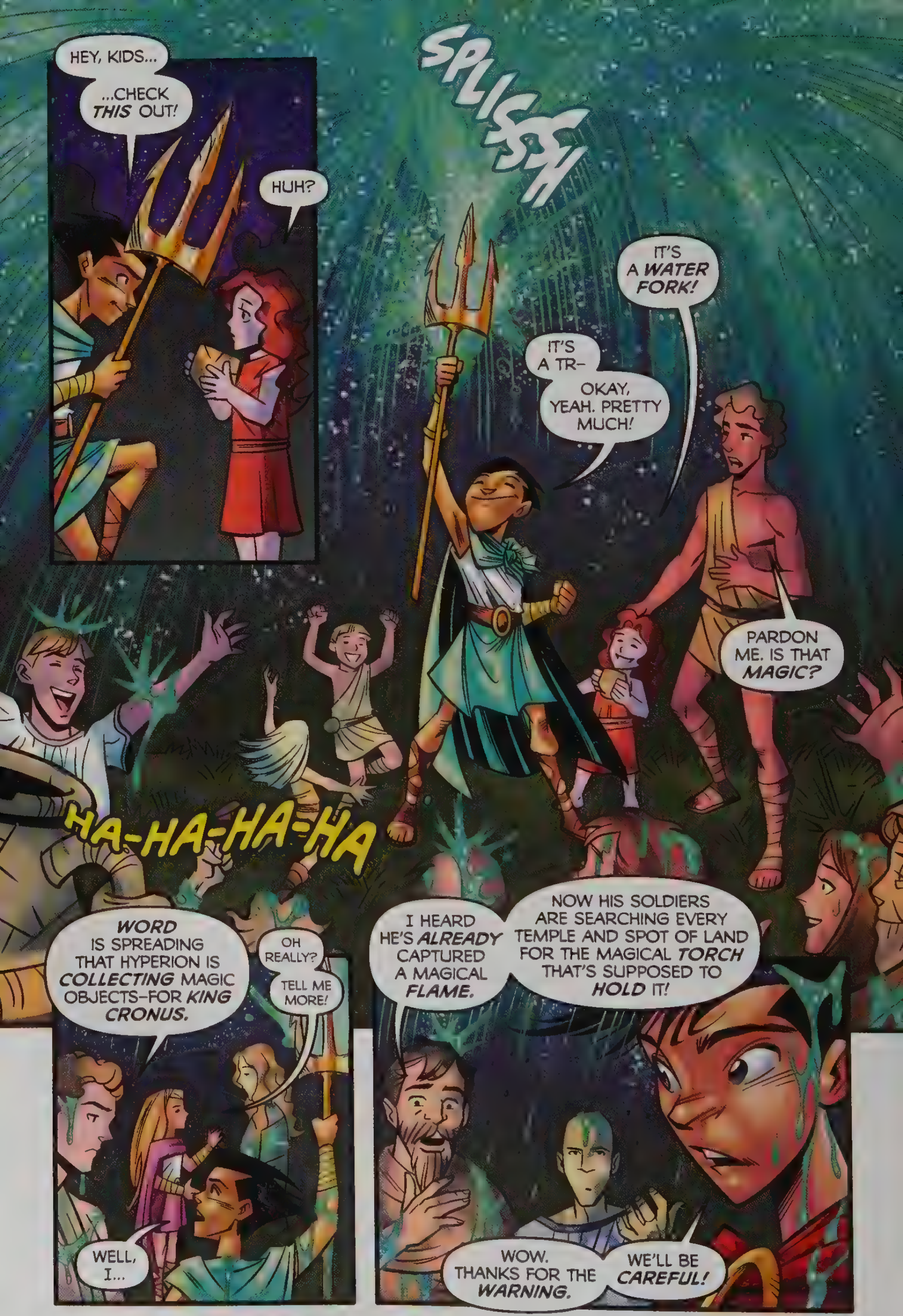

LOOKS LIKE WE MISSED A *PARTY!*
DOESN'T MEAN LITTLE *OLYMPIANS,* THOUGH.
THIS WHOLE *TOWN* LOOKS LIKE THEY LEFT IN A HURRY...
...YOU'D THINK THEY KNEW WE WERE *COMIN'!*
HA! WHAT WITH ALL OUR CAREFUL *TIPTOEIN'?*
WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO LOOK THROUGH EVERY BURNED *BUILDING,* MEN.
FOR MAGIC *WEAPONS,* FOR *OLYMPIANS...*
"...AND FOR TASTY, CRISPY *CITIZENS!*"
WE'VE BEEN RUNNING AND WALKING FOR *HOURS,* BOLTBRAIN.
ANY *PLANS* FOR US BESIDES BLISTERED FEET OR HEATSTROKE?
WE LEFT THE CRONIES FAR BEHIND.
MAYBE THIS VILLAGE WILL BE SAFE WHILE WE WORK OUT OUR *PLANS.*
YOU STILL DON'T HAVE A *PLAN?*

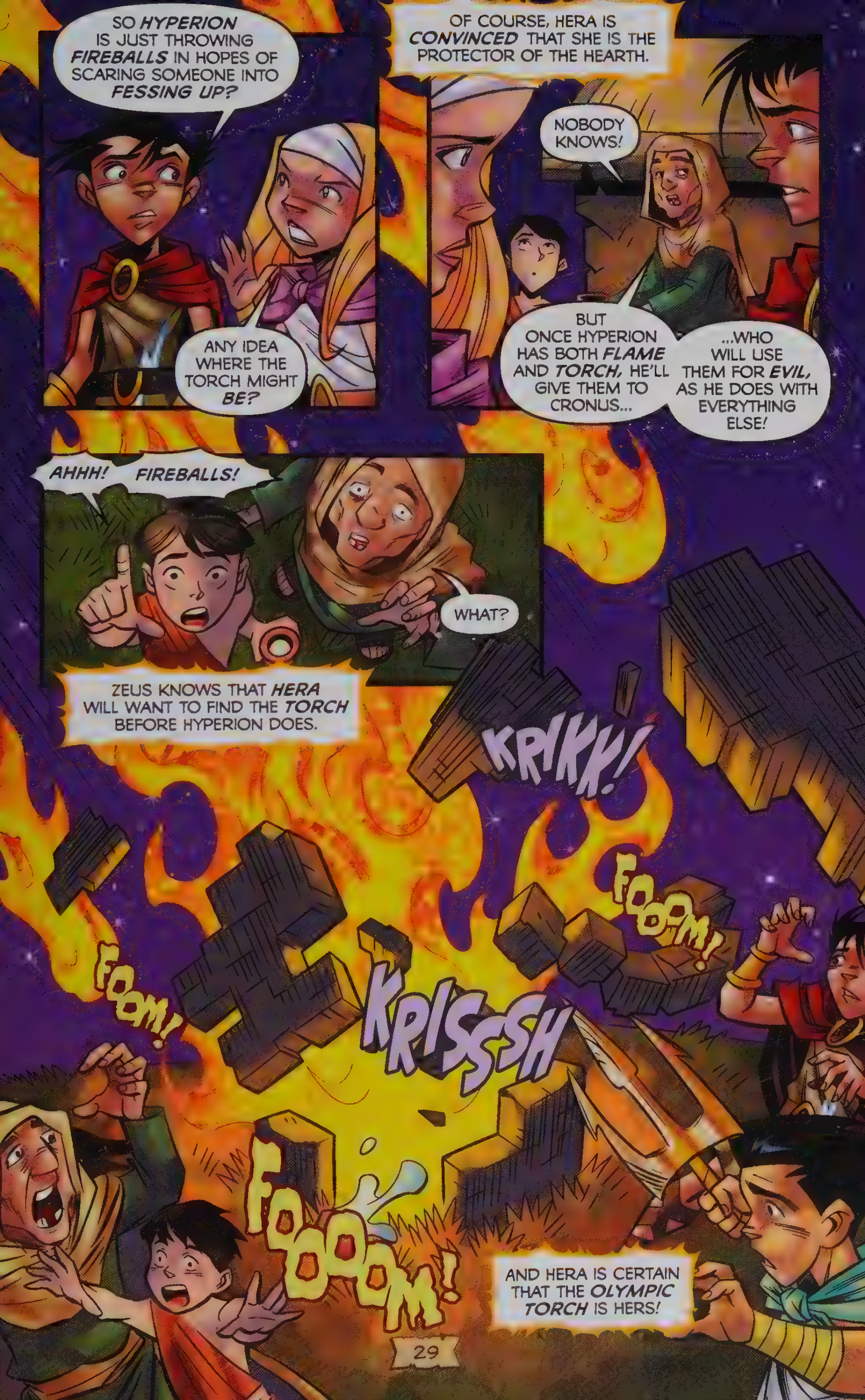

HELLO?
ANYBODY *HOME?*
NAH, THEY *LEFT.* WOULDN'T *YOU?*
THIS PLACE IS *FRIED.*
SIGH
LOOK AT THIS.
POOR LITTLE THING.
WHOA!
DEMETER, DO YOU HAVE SOME SORT OF MAGIC *TOUCH?*
WHY DO YOU THINK THE TITANS TRAPPED ME IN A *GREENHOUSE?*
HEY, *LOOK!*
A WATER WELL!

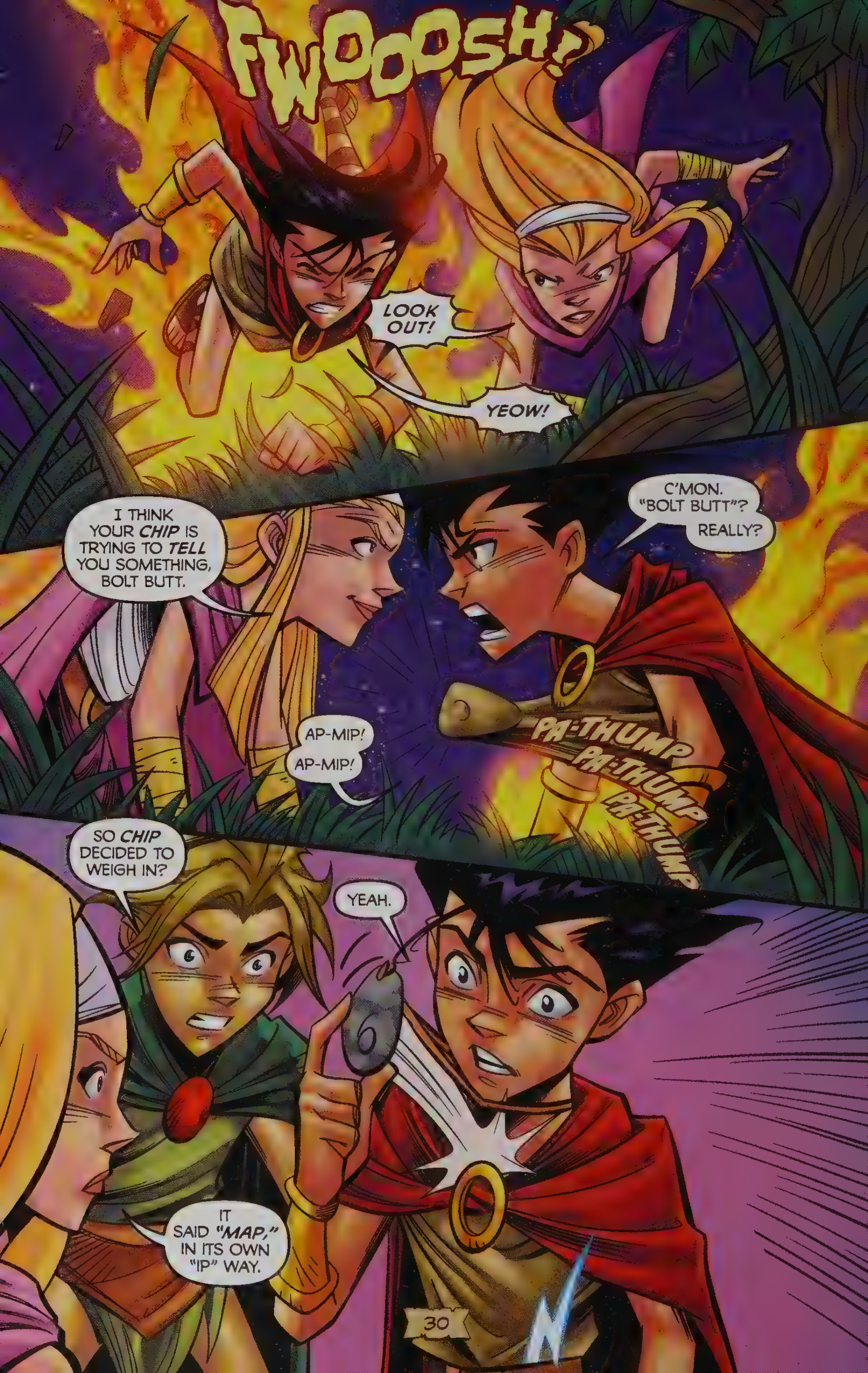

AWW, FISH STICKS!
IT'S *EMPTY!*
SO, CAN YOU *FILL* IT?
HEH! OH YEAH.
I'LL TRY.
LONG!
DRILL!
ZIIIIP
IT'S *WORKING!*
HA-HA!
IT REALL IS!
BLUB!
BLUB!
BLUB!

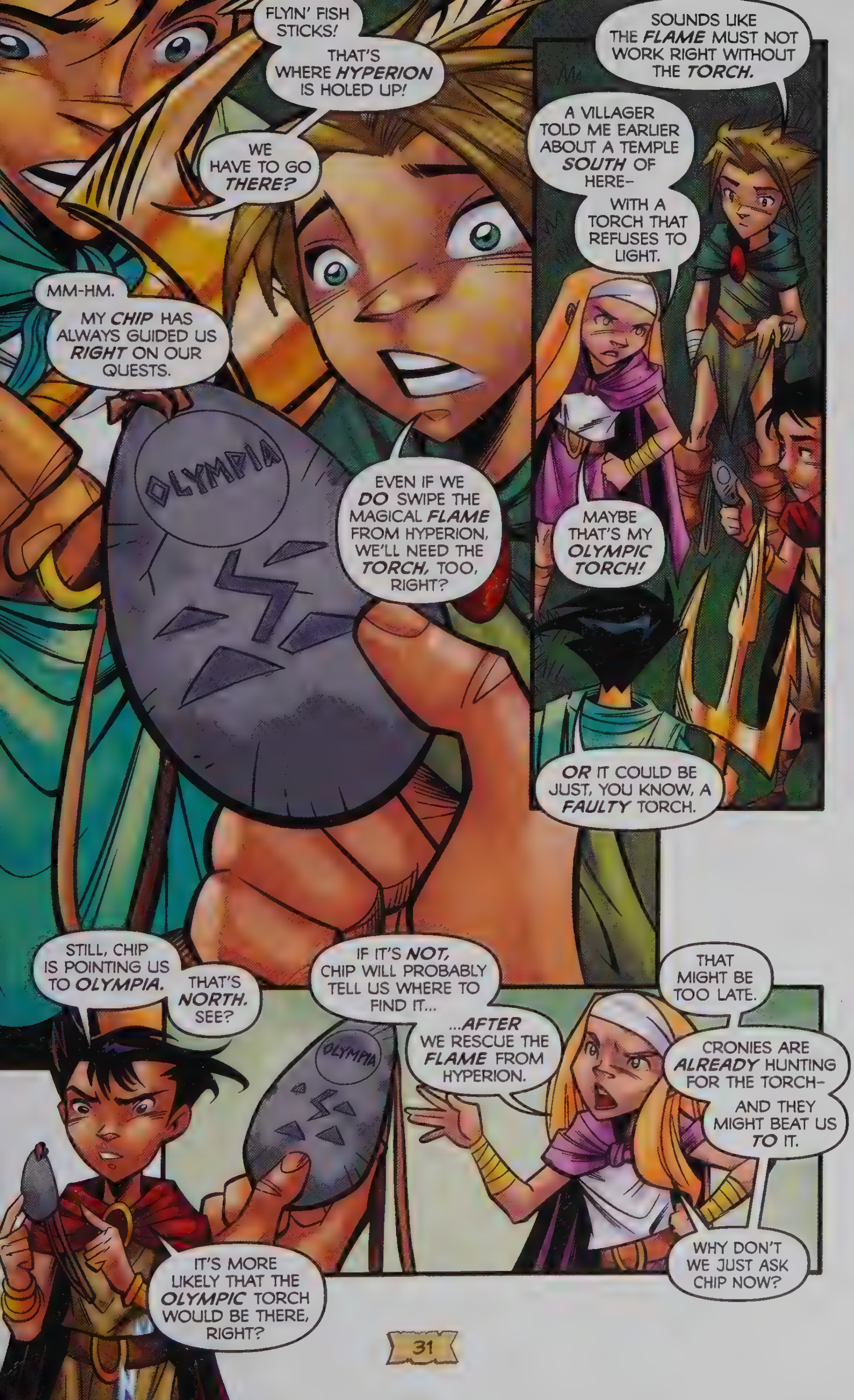

HOORAY!
THAT WENT BETTER THAN EXPECTED!
GANGWAY! I'M PARCHED!
ME TOO!
YOU DID GOOD, POSEIDON!
SPLASH!
SLOSH!
NOT TO BE UNGRATEFUL, BUT THIS IS WAY BETTER THAN SIPPING FROM THE END OF A BIG FORK!
GLUG GLUG GLUG
GULP GULP
GULP!
GLUG!
FLIPPIN' FISH LIPS! THAT'S GOOD!
GLUB! GLUB!
BETTER THAN THAT WATER FROM THE RIVER LETHE?
HUH? WHAT RIVER LETHE?
I DON'T REMEMBER IT.
HA-HA-HA!

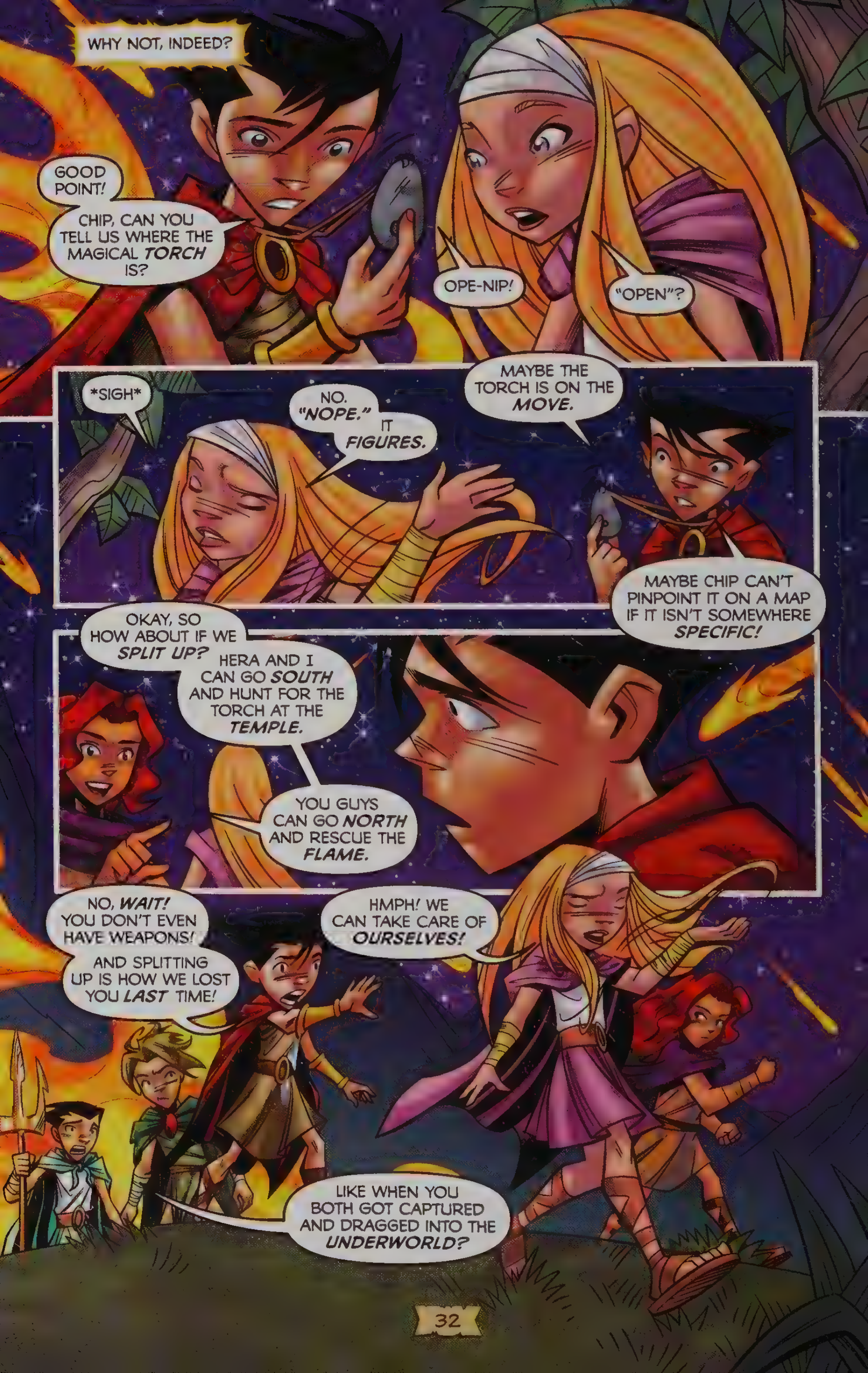

WATER!
THEY'VE FOUND *WATER!*
THANK THE *GODS!*
THIS WELL WAS *DRY* YESTERDAY.
WHEN DID THIS *HAPPEN?*
JUST *MINUTES* AGO IT FILLED UP! WE–
MY VILLAGE RAN OUT OF WATER A *WEEK* AGO!
THERE'S A *DROUGHT* WHERE I LIVE IN *OLYMPIA,* TOO.
I JUST LEFT IT–
THE GIANT *HYPERION* CLAIMED A *TEMPLE* THERE!
HYPERION!
HE'S SCORCHING EVERY VILLAGE AND FARM FOR MILES AROUND!

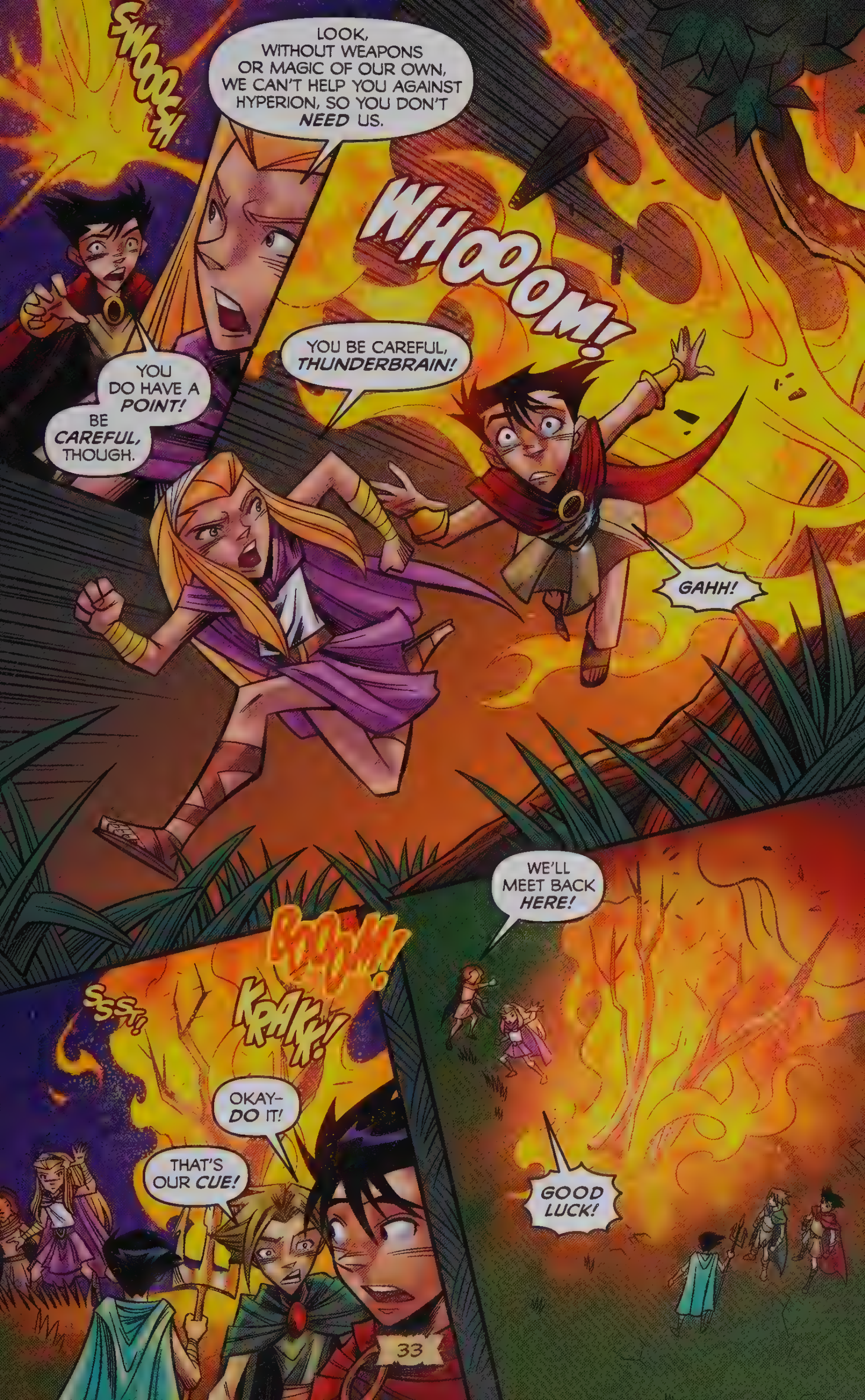

HEY, KIDS...
...CHECK *THIS* OUT!
HUH?
SPLISSH
IT'S A TR–
IT'S A *WATER FORK!*
OKAY, YEAH. PRETTY MUCH!
PARDON ME. IS THAT *MAGIC?*
HA-HA-HA-HA
WORD IS SPREADING THAT HYPERION IS *COLLECTING* MAGIC OBJECTS–FOR *KING CRONUS.*
OH REALLY?
TELL ME MORE!
WELL, I...
I HEARD HE'S *ALREADY* CAPTURED A MAGICAL *FLAME.*
NOW HIS SOLDIERS ARE SEARCHING EVERY TEMPLE AND SPOT OF LAND FOR THE MAGICAL *TORCH* THAT'S SUPPOSED TO *HOLD* IT!
WOW. THANKS FOR THE *WARNING.*
WE'LL BE *CAREFUL!*


SO *HYPERION* IS JUST THROWING *FIREBALLS* IN HOPES OF SCARING SOMEONE INTO *FESSING UP?*
ANY IDEA WHERE THE TORCH MIGHT *BE?*
OF COURSE, HERA IS *CONVINCED* THAT SHE IS THE PROTECTOR OF THE HEARTH.
NOBODY KNOWS!
BUT ONCE HYPERION HAS BOTH *FLAME* AND *TORCH,* HE'LL GIVE THEM TO CRONUS...
...WHO WILL USE THEM FOR *EVIL,* AS HE DOES WITH EVERYTHING ELSE!
AHHH!
FIREBALLS!
WHAT?
ZEUS KNOWS THAT *HERA* WILL WANT TO FIND THE *TORCH* BEFORE HYPERION DOES.
KRIKK!
FOOM!
FOOM!
KRISSSH
FOOOOM!
AND HERA IS CERTAIN THAT THE *OLYMPIC TORCH* IS HERS!

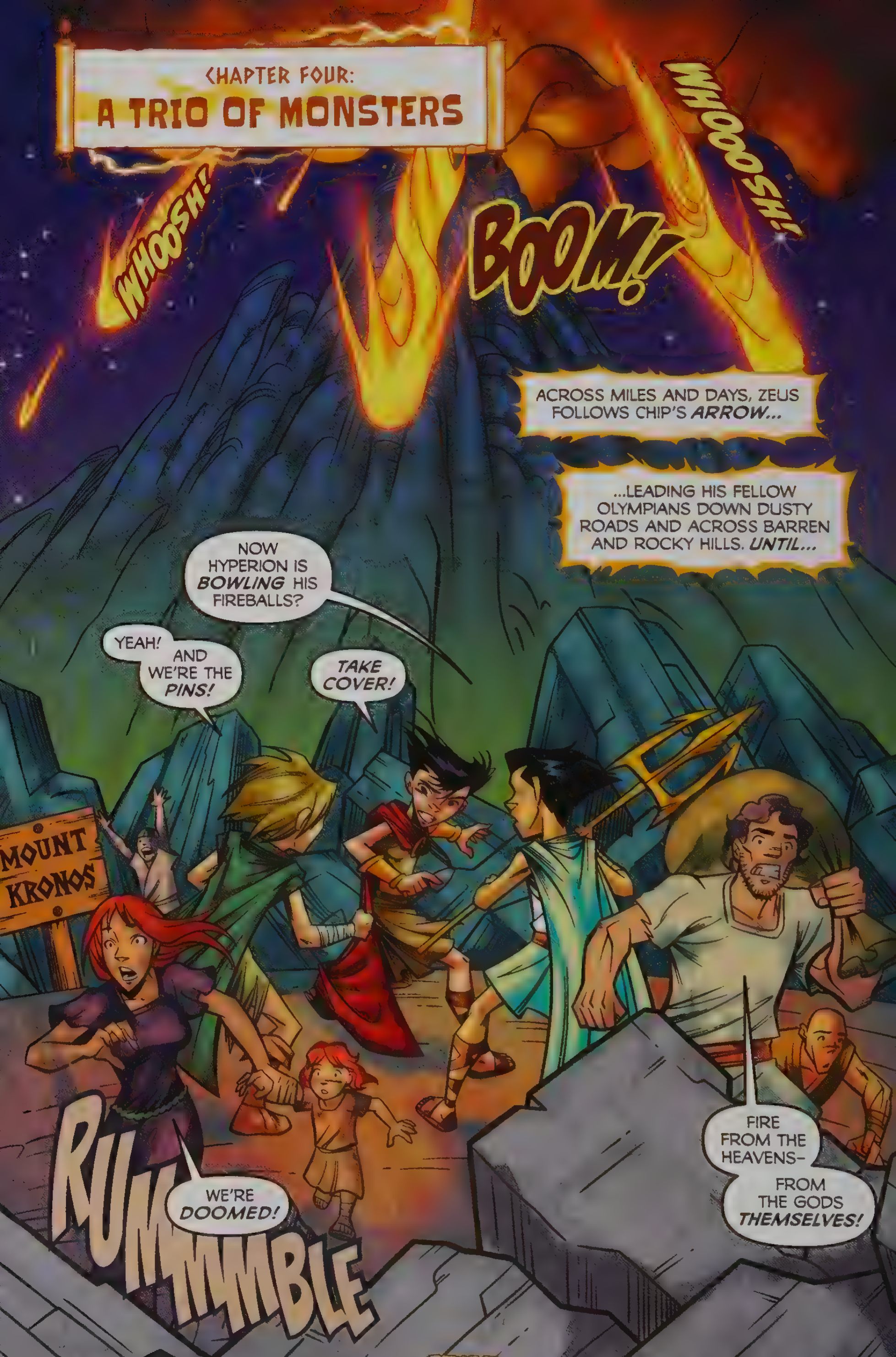

FWOOOSH!
LOOK OUT!
YEOW!
I THINK YOUR *CHIP* IS TRYING TO *TELL* YOU SOMETHING, BOLT BUTT.
C'MON. "BOLT BUTT"? REALLY?
AP-MIP! AP-MIP!
PA-THUMP PA-THUMP PA-THUMP
SO *CHIP* DECIDED TO WEIGH IN?
YEAH.
IT SAID *"MAP,"* IN ITS OWN "IP" WAY.

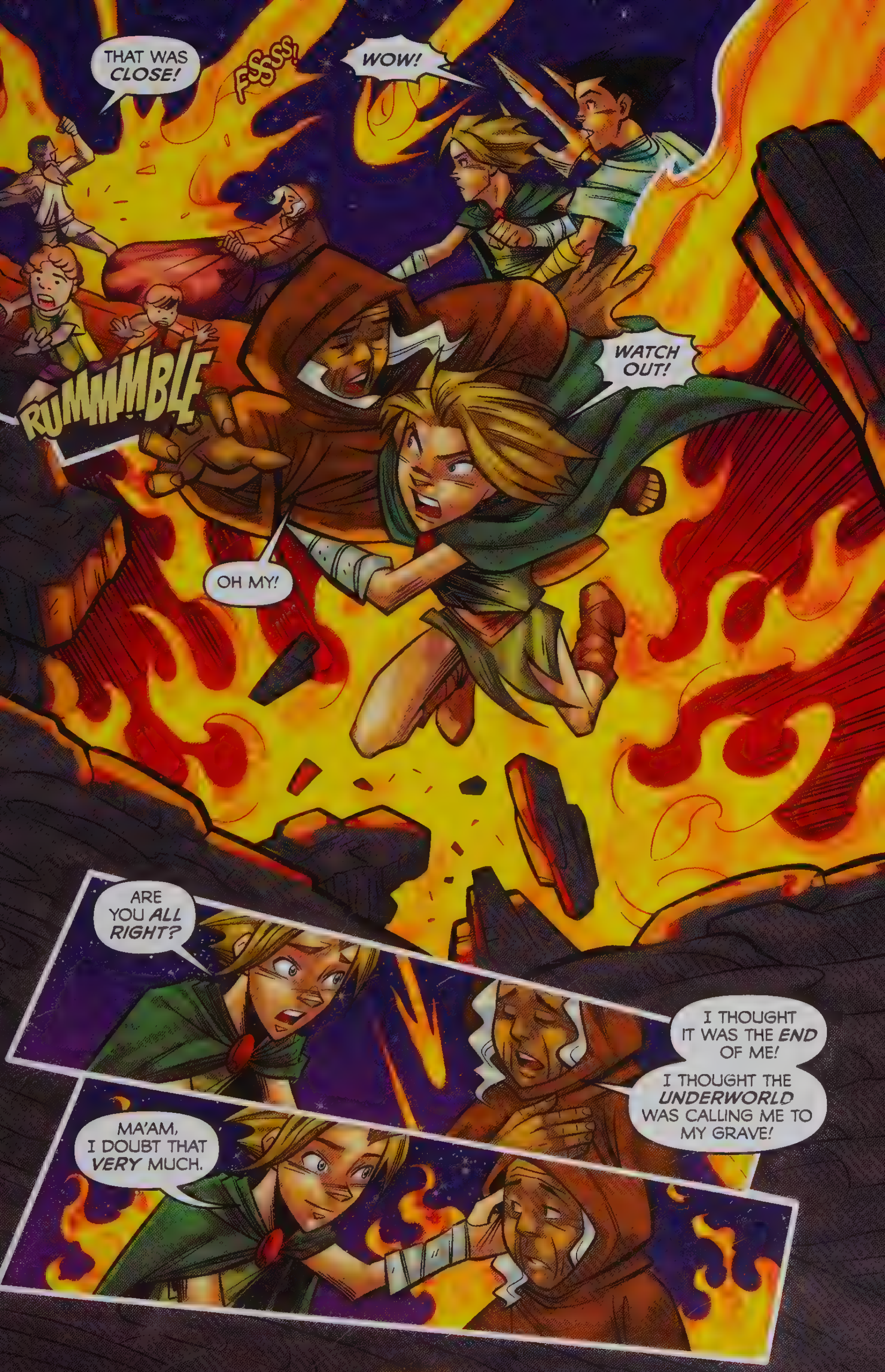

FLYIN' FISH STICKS!
THAT'S WHERE *HYPERION* IS HOLED UP!
WE HAVE TO GO *THERE?*
MM-HM.
MY *CHIP* HAS ALWAYS GUIDED US *RIGHT* ON OUR QUESTS.
OLYMPIA
EVEN IF WE *DO* SWIPE THE MAGICAL *FLAME* FROM HYPERION, WE'LL NEED THE *TORCH,* TOO, RIGHT?
SOUNDS LIKE THE *FLAME* MUST NOT WORK RIGHT WITHOUT THE *TORCH.*
A VILLAGER TOLD ME EARLIER ABOUT A TEMPLE *SOUTH* OF HERE–
WITH A TORCH THAT REFUSES TO LIGHT.
MAYBE THAT'S MY *OLYMPIC TORCH!*
OR IT COULD BE JUST, YOU KNOW, A *FAULTY* TORCH.
STILL, CHIP IS POINTING US TO *OLYMPIA.*
THAT'S *NORTH.* SEE?
OLYMPIA
IT'S MORE LIKELY THAT THE *OLYMPIC* TORCH WOULD BE THERE, RIGHT?
IF IT'S *NOT,* CHIP WILL PROBABLY TELL US WHERE TO FIND IT...
...*AFTER* WE RESCUE THE *FLAME* FROM HYPERION.
THAT MIGHT BE TOO LATE.
CRONIES ARE *ALREADY* HUNTING FOR THE TORCH–
AND THEY MIGHT BEAT US *TO* IT.
WHY DON'T WE JUST ASK CHIP NOW?

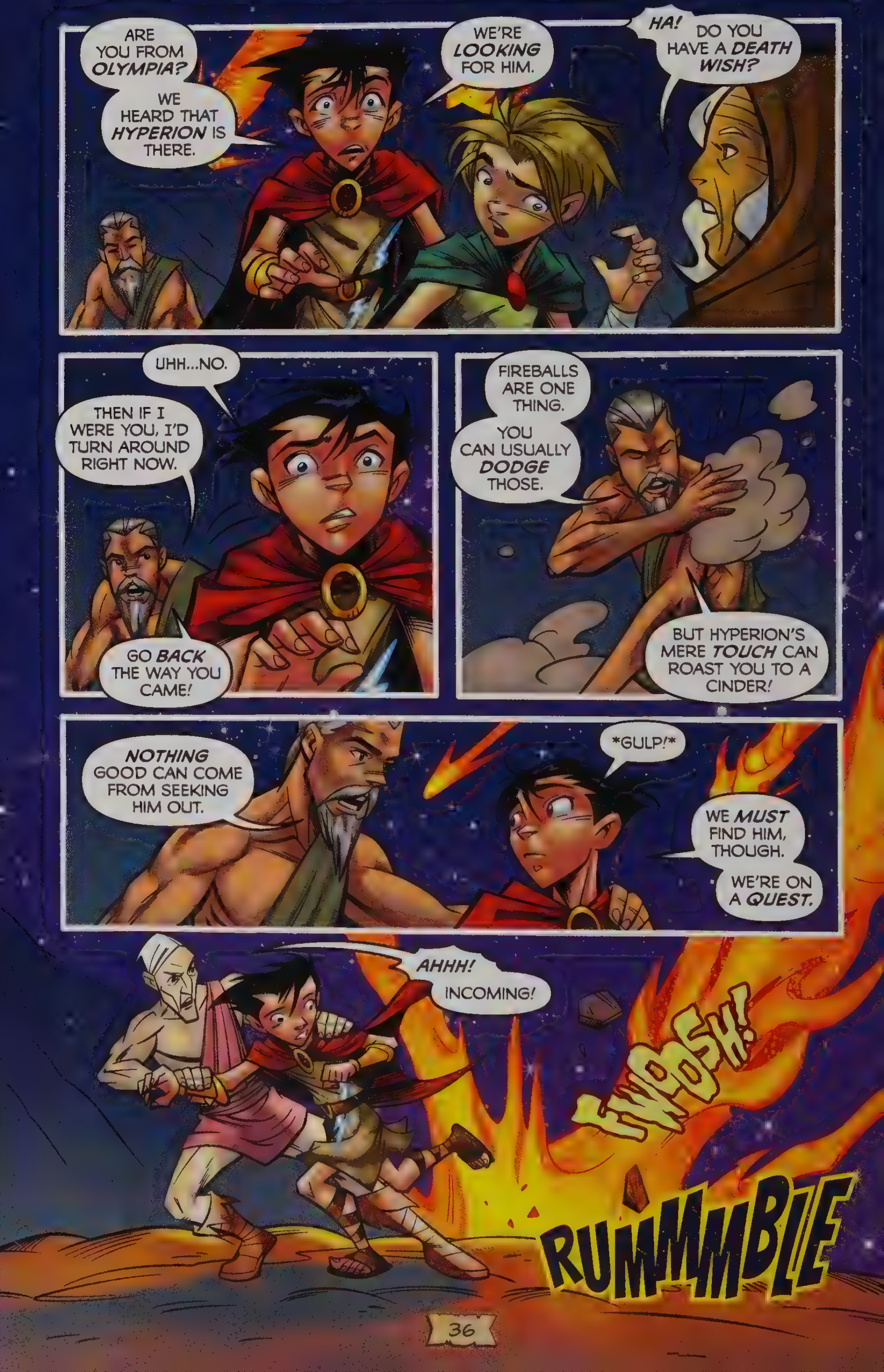

WHY NOT, INDEED?
GOOD POINT!
CHIP, CAN YOU TELL US WHERE THE MAGICAL *TORCH* IS?
OPE-NIP!
"OPEN"?
SIGH
NO. *"NOPE."* IT *FIGURES.*
MAYBE THE TORCH IS ON THE *MOVE.*
MAYBE CHIP CAN'T PINPOINT IT ON A MAP IF IT ISN'T SOMEWHERE *SPECIFIC!*
OKAY, SO HOW ABOUT IF WE *SPLIT UP?*
HERA AND I CAN GO *SOUTH* AND HUNT FOR THE TORCH AT THE *TEMPLE.*
YOU GUYS CAN GO *NORTH* AND RESCUE THE *FLAME.*
NO, *WAIT!* YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE WEAPONS!
AND SPLITTING UP IS HOW WE LOST YOU *LAST* TIME!
HMPH! WE CAN TAKE CARE OF *OURSELVES!*
LIKE WHEN YOU BOTH GOT CAPTURED AND DRAGGED INTO THE *UNDERWORLD?*

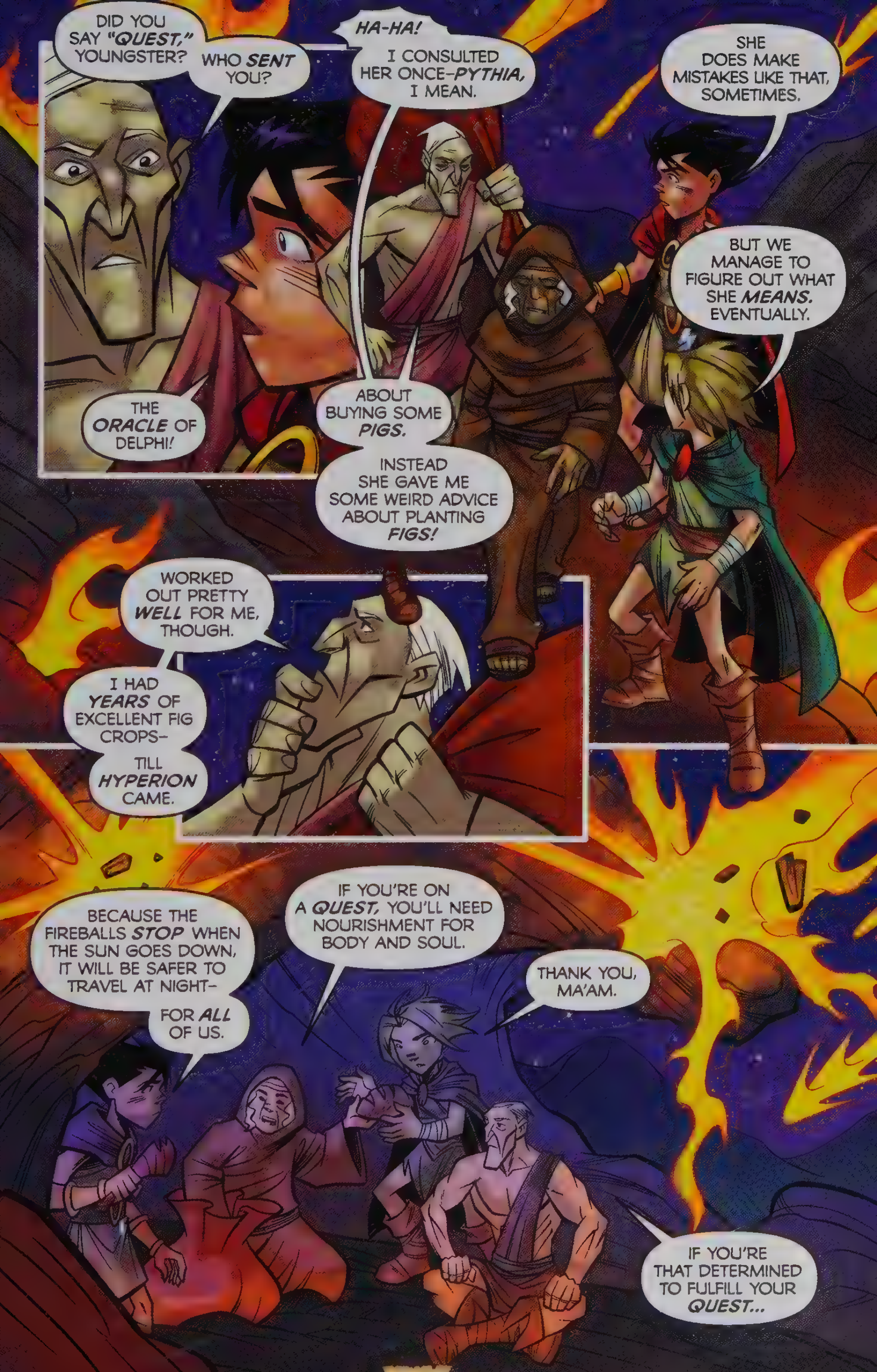

SWOOOSH
LOOK, WITHOUT WEAPONS OR MAGIC OF OUR OWN, WE CAN'T HELP YOU AGAINST HYPERION, SO YOU DON'T *NEED* US.
YOU DO HAVE A *POINT!*
BE *CAREFUL,* THOUGH.
WHOOOOM!
YOU BE CAREFUL, *THUNDERBRAIN!*
GAHH!
BOOM!
SSST!
KRAKK!
OKAY— *DO* IT!
THAT'S OUR *CUE!*
WE'LL MEET BACK *HERE!*
GOOD LUCK!

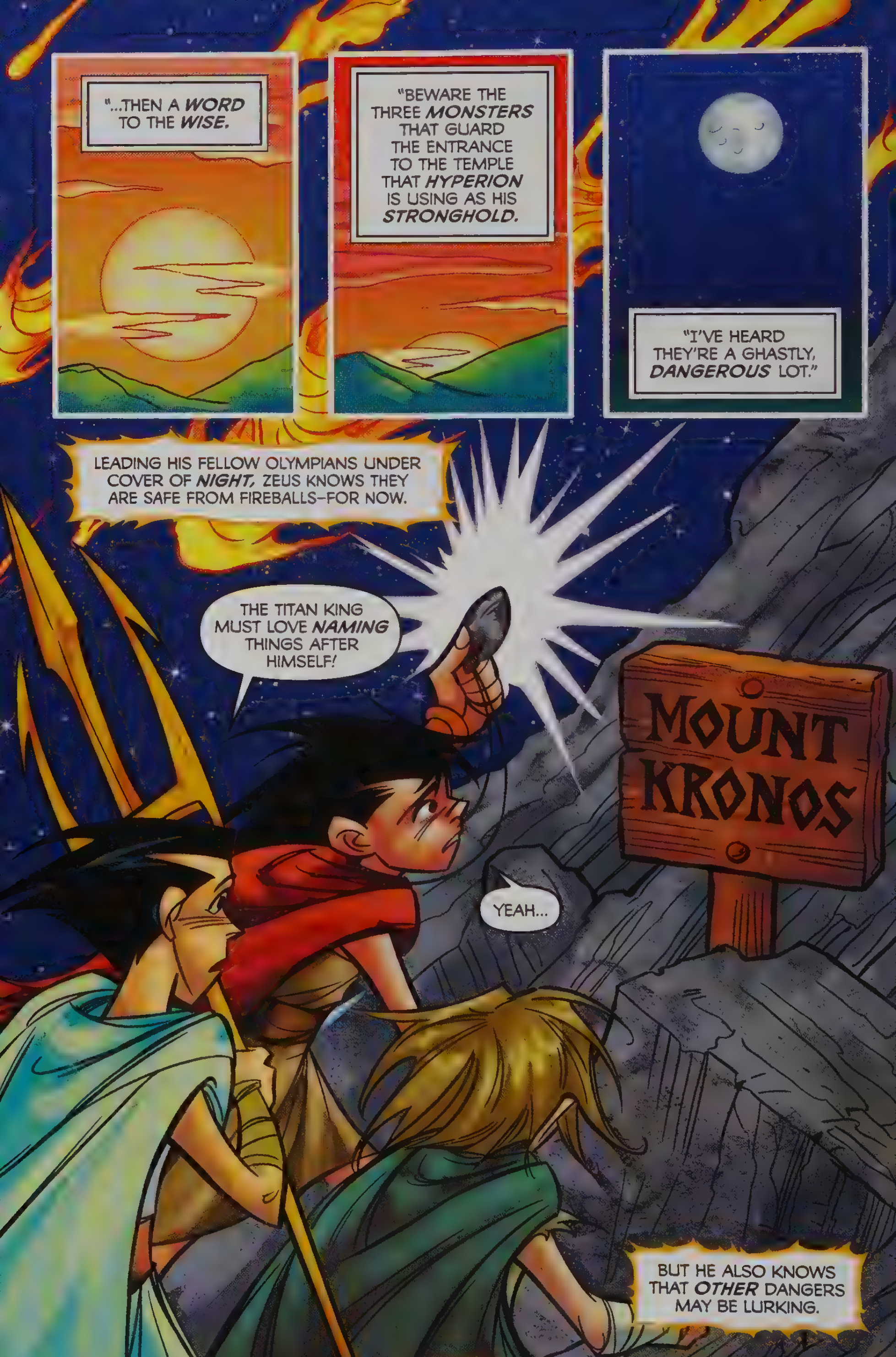
CHAPTER FOUR:
A TRIO OF MONSTERS

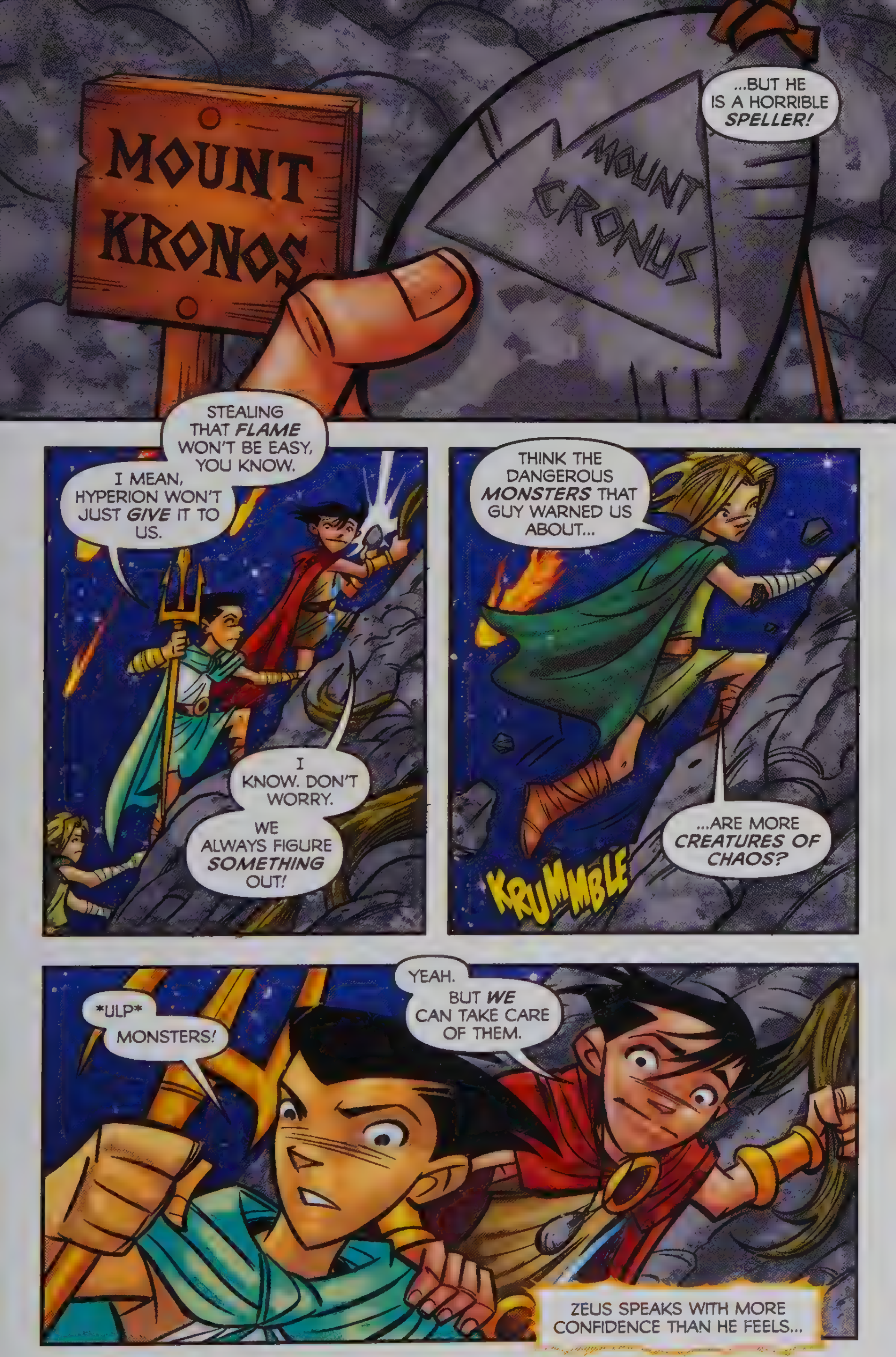

WHOOSH!
WHOOOSH!
BOOM!
ACROSS MILES AND DAYS, ZEUS FOLLOWS CHIP'S *ARROW...*
...LEADING HIS FELLOW OLYMPIANS DOWN DUSTY ROADS AND ACROSS BARREN AND ROCKY HILLS. *UNTIL...*
NOW HYPERION IS *BOWLING* HIS FIREBALLS?
YEAH! AND WE'RE THE *PINS!*
TAKE COVER!
MOUNT KRONOS
RUMMMMBLE
WE'RE *DOOMED!*
FIRE FROM THE HEAVENS-
FROM THE GODS *THEMSELVES!*

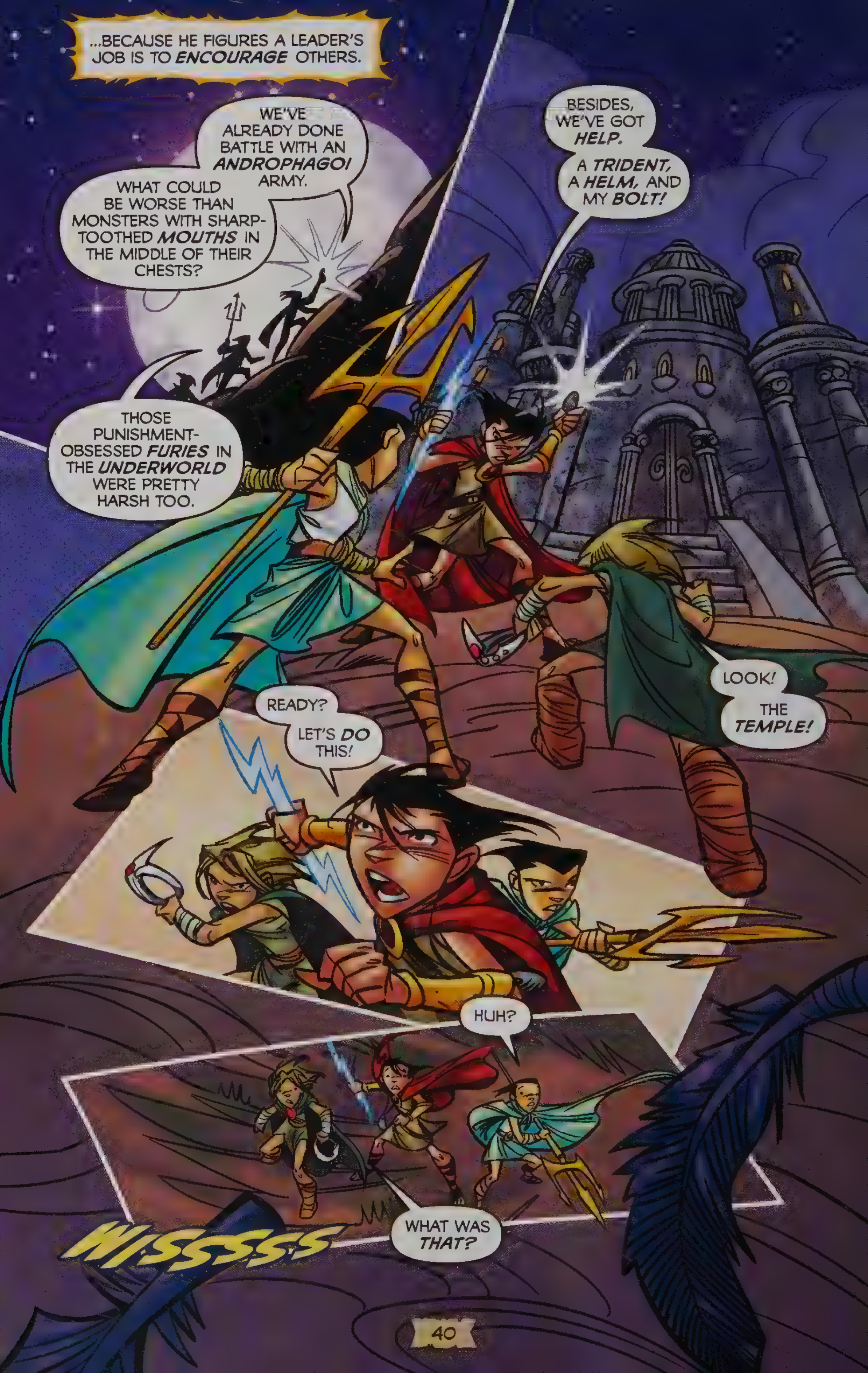

THAT WAS *CLOSE!*
FSSSS!
WOW!
RUMMMBLE
WATCH OUT!
OH MY!
ARE YOU *ALL RIGHT?*
I THOUGHT IT WAS THE *END* OF ME!
I THOUGHT THE *UNDERWORLD* WAS CALLING ME TO MY GRAVE!
MA'AM, I DOUBT THAT *VERY* MUCH.

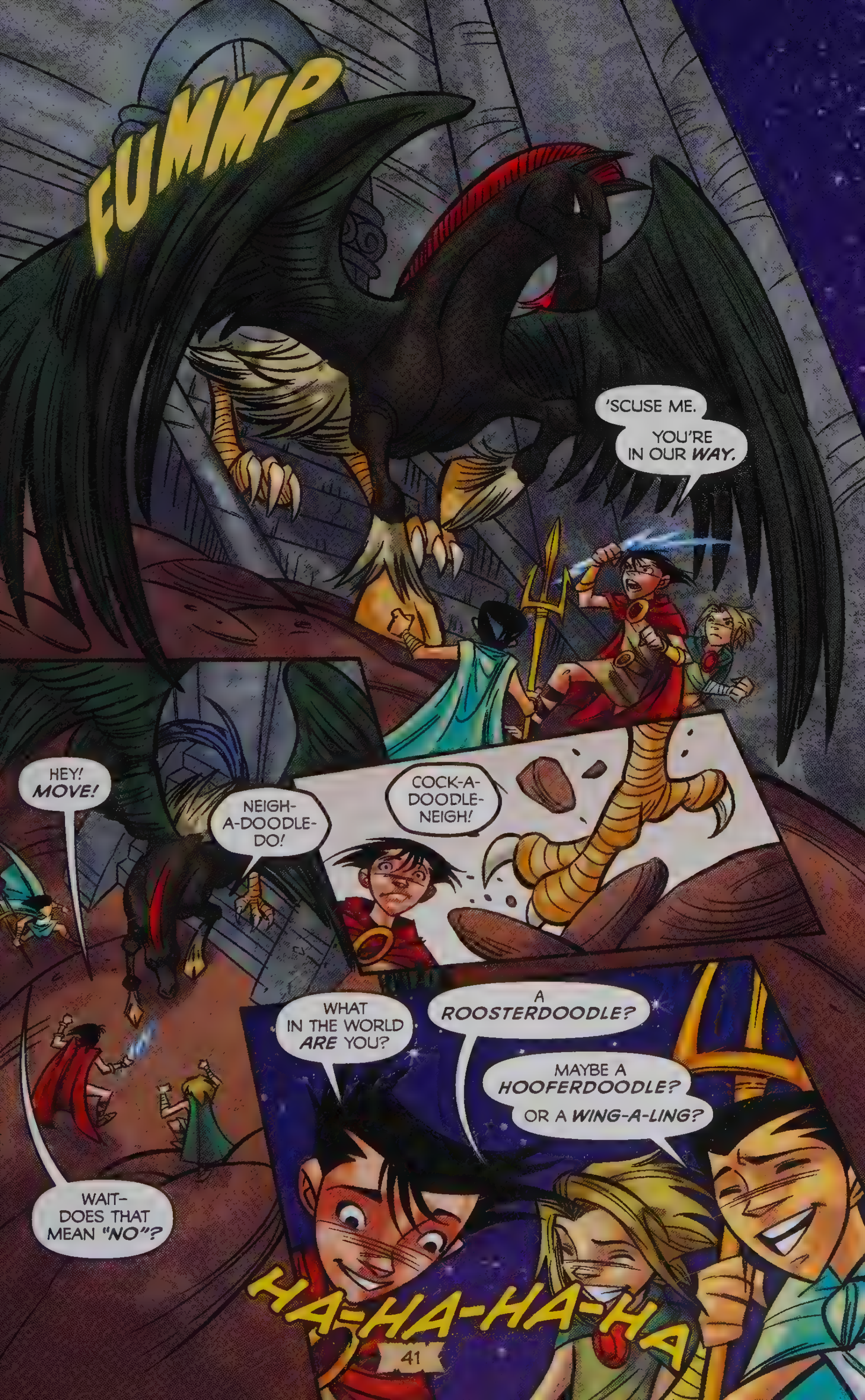

ARE YOU FROM *OLYMPIA?*
WE HEARD THAT *HYPERION* IS THERE.
WE'RE *LOOKING* FOR HIM.
HA! DO YOU HAVE A *DEATH WISH?*
UHH...NO.
THEN IF I WERE YOU, I'D TURN AROUND RIGHT NOW.
GO *BACK* THE WAY YOU CAME!
FIREBALLS ARE ONE THING.
YOU CAN USUALLY *DODGE* THOSE.
BUT HYPERION'S MERE *TOUCH* CAN ROAST YOU TO A CINDER!
NOTHING GOOD CAN COME FROM SEEKING HIM OUT.
GULP!
WE *MUST* FIND HIM, THOUGH.
WE'RE ON A *QUEST.*
AHHH!
INCOMING!
FWOOSH!
RUMMMBLE

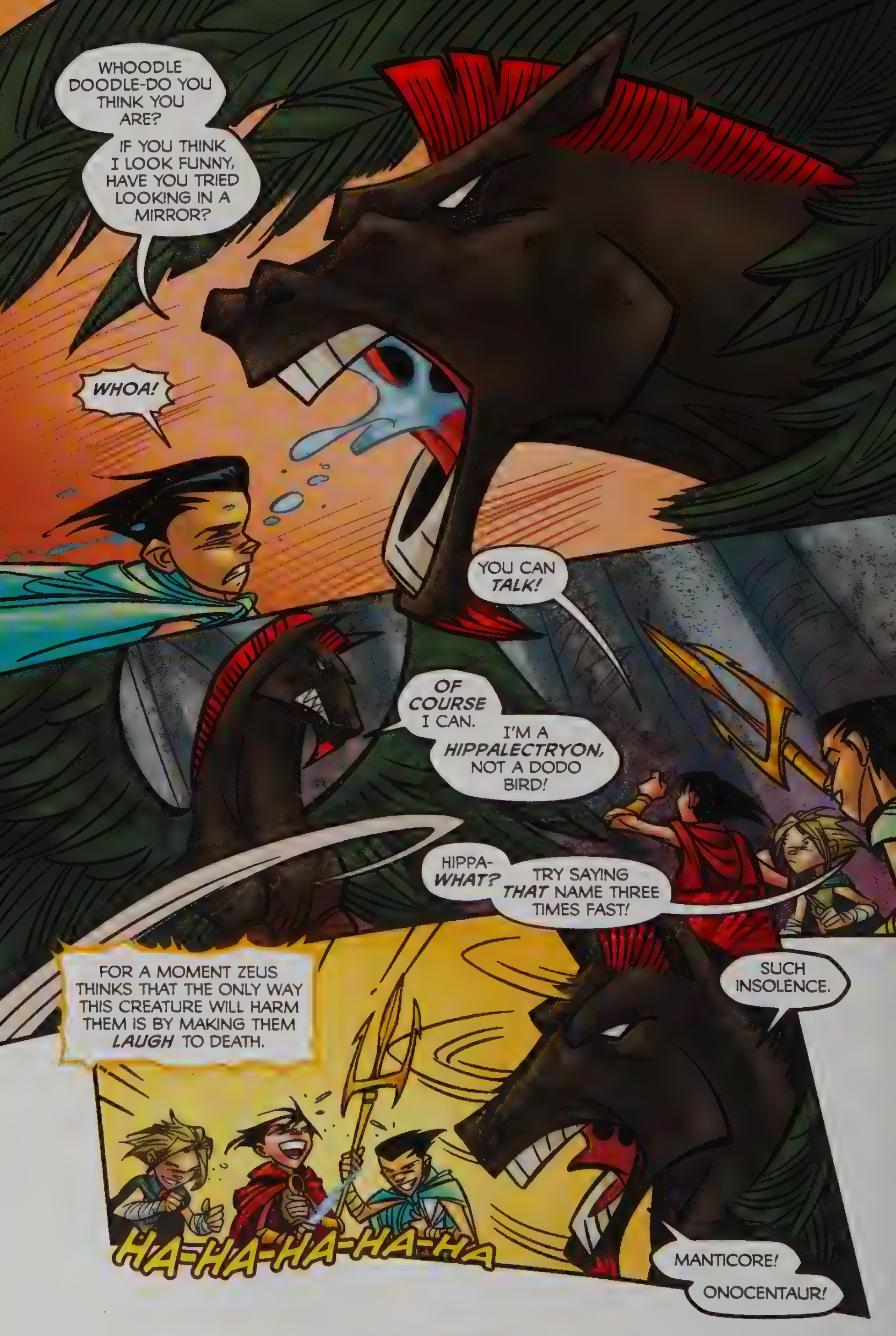

DID YOU SAY *"QUEST,"* YOUNGSTER?
WHO *SENT* YOU?
THE *ORACLE* OF DELPHI!
HA-HA!
I CONSULTED HER ONCE–*PYTHIA,* I MEAN.
ABOUT BUYING SOME *PIGS.*
INSTEAD SHE GAVE ME SOME WEIRD ADVICE ABOUT PLANTING *FIGS!*
SHE DOES MAKE MISTAKES LIKE THAT, SOMETIMES.
BUT WE MANAGE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT SHE *MEANS.* EVENTUALLY.
WORKED OUT PRETTY *WELL* FOR ME, THOUGH.
I HAD *YEARS* OF EXCELLENT FIG CROPS–
TILL *HYPERION* CAME.
BECAUSE THE FIREBALLS *STOP* WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN, IT WILL BE SAFER TO TRAVEL AT NIGHT–
FOR *ALL* OF US.
IF YOU'RE ON A *QUEST,* YOU'LL NEED NOURISHMENT FOR BODY AND SOUL.
THANK YOU, MA'AM.
IF YOU'RE THAT DETERMINED TO FULFILL YOUR *QUEST...*

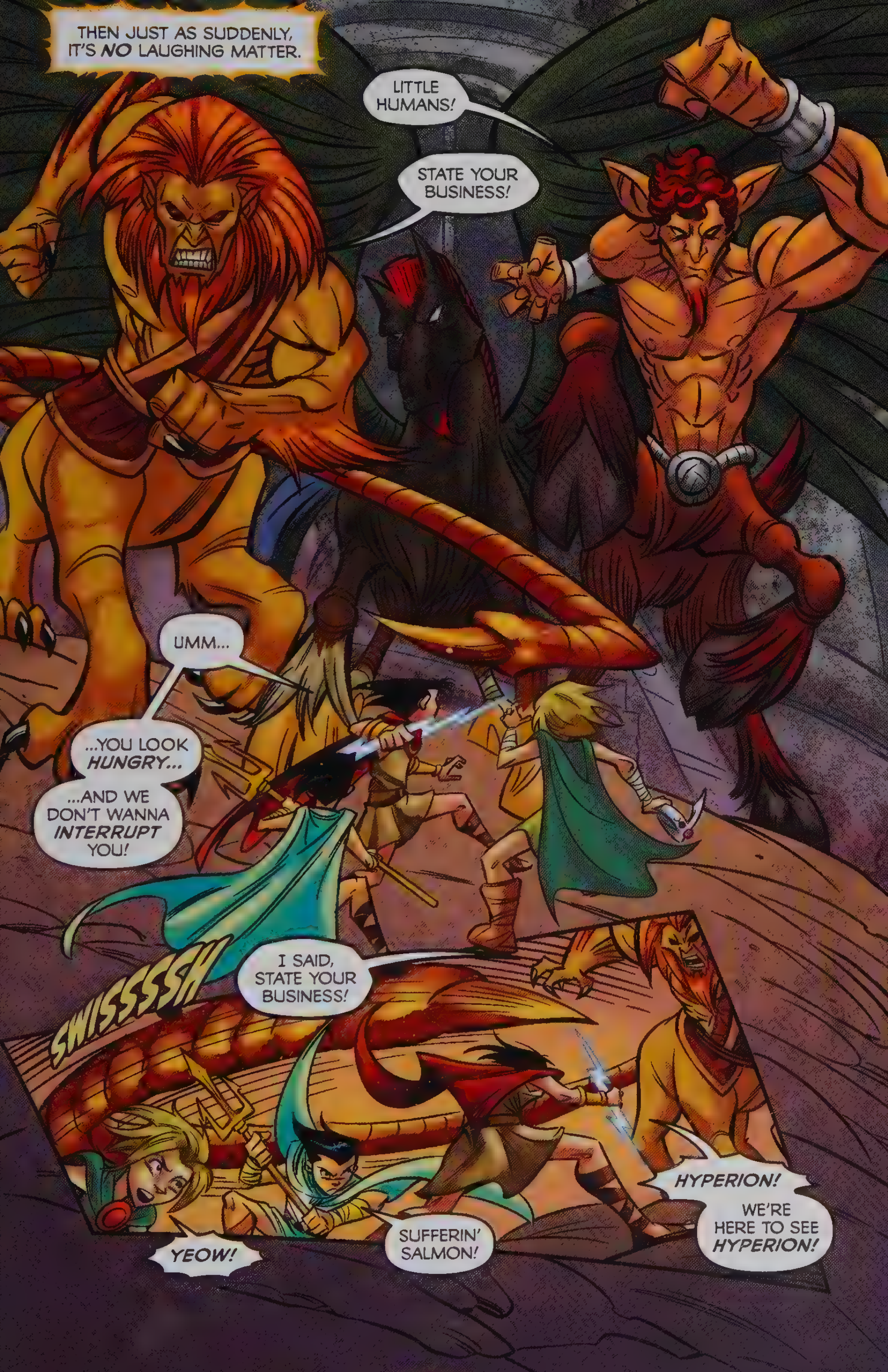

"...THEN A *WORD* TO THE *WISE.*
"BEWARE THE THREE *MONSTERS* THAT GUARD THE ENTRANCE TO THE TEMPLE THAT *HYPERION* IS USING AS HIS *STRONGHOLD.*
"I'VE HEARD THEY'RE A GHASTLY, *DANGEROUS* LOT."
LEADING HIS FELLOW OLYMPIANS UNDER COVER OF *NIGHT,* ZEUS KNOWS THEY ARE SAFE FROM FIREBALLS–FOR NOW.
THE TITAN KING MUST LOVE *NAMING* THINGS AFTER HIMSELF!
MOUNT KRONOS
YEAH...
BUT HE ALSO KNOWS THAT *OTHER* DANGERS MAY BE LURKING.

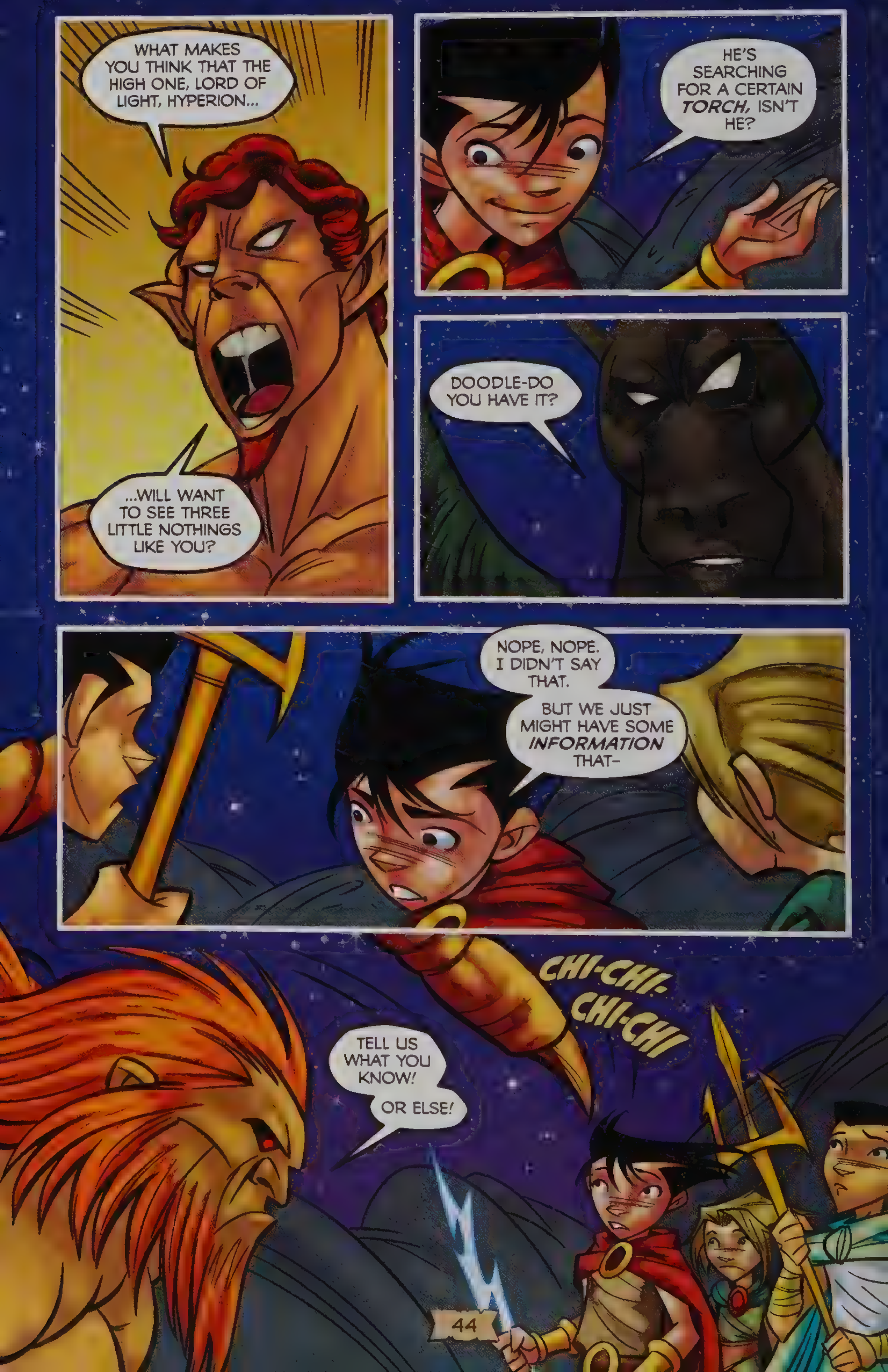

MOUNT KRONOS
MOUNT CRONUS
...BUT HE IS A HORRIBLE *SPELLER!*
STEALING THAT *FLAME* WON'T BE EASY, YOU KNOW.
I MEAN, HYPERION WON'T JUST *GIVE* IT TO US.
I KNOW. DON'T WORRY.
WE ALWAYS FIGURE *SOMETHING* OUT!
THINK THE DANGEROUS *MONSTERS* THAT GUY WARNED US ABOUT...
KRUMMBLE
...ARE MORE *CREATURES OF CHAOS?*
ULP MONSTERS!
YEAH. BUT *WE* CAN TAKE CARE OF THEM.
ZEUS SPEAKS WITH MORE CONFIDENCE THAN HE FEELS...

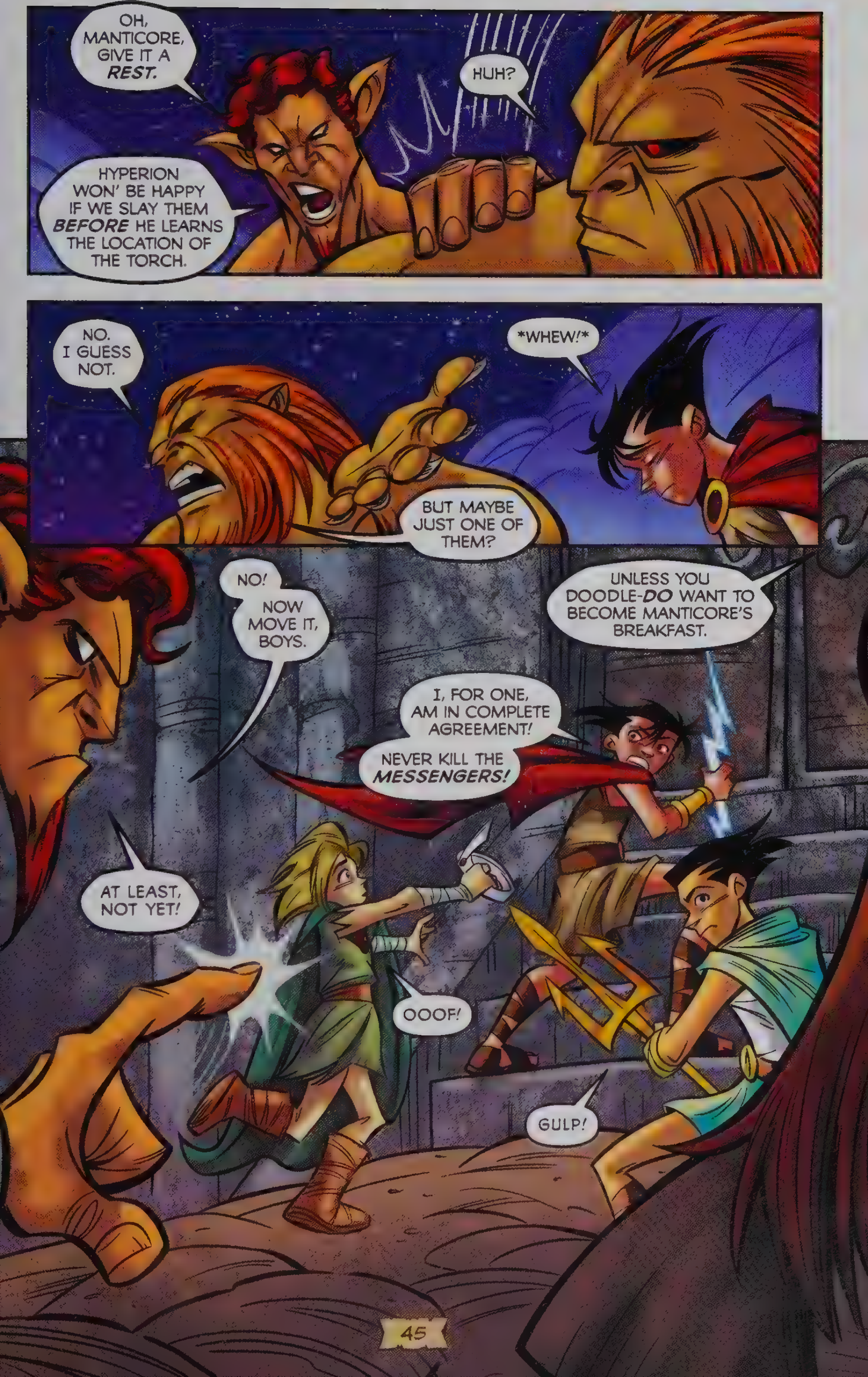

...BECAUSE HE FIGURES A LEADER'S JOB IS TO *ENCOURAGE* OTHERS.
WE'VE ALREADY DONE BATTLE WITH AN *ANDROPHAGOI* ARMY.
WHAT COULD BE WORSE THAN MONSTERS WITH SHARP-TOOTHED *MOUTHS* IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR CHESTS?
BESIDES, WE'VE GOT *HELP.*
A *TRIDENT,* A *HELM,* AND MY *BOLT!*
THOSE PUNISHMENT-OBSESSED *FURIES* IN THE *UNDERWORLD* WERE PRETTY HARSH TOO.
READY?
LET'S *DO* THIS!
LOOK!
THE *TEMPLE!*
HUH?
WHAT WAS *THAT?*
WISSSS


FUMMP
'SCUSE ME.
YOU'RE IN OUR *WAY.*
HEY! *MOVE!*
NEIGH-A-DOODLE-DO!
COCK-A-DOODLE-NEIGH!
WAIT– DOES THAT MEAN *"NO"*?
WHAT IN THE WORLD *ARE* YOU?
A *ROOSTERDOODLE?*
MAYBE A *HOOFERDOODLE?*
OR A *WING-A-LING?*
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA

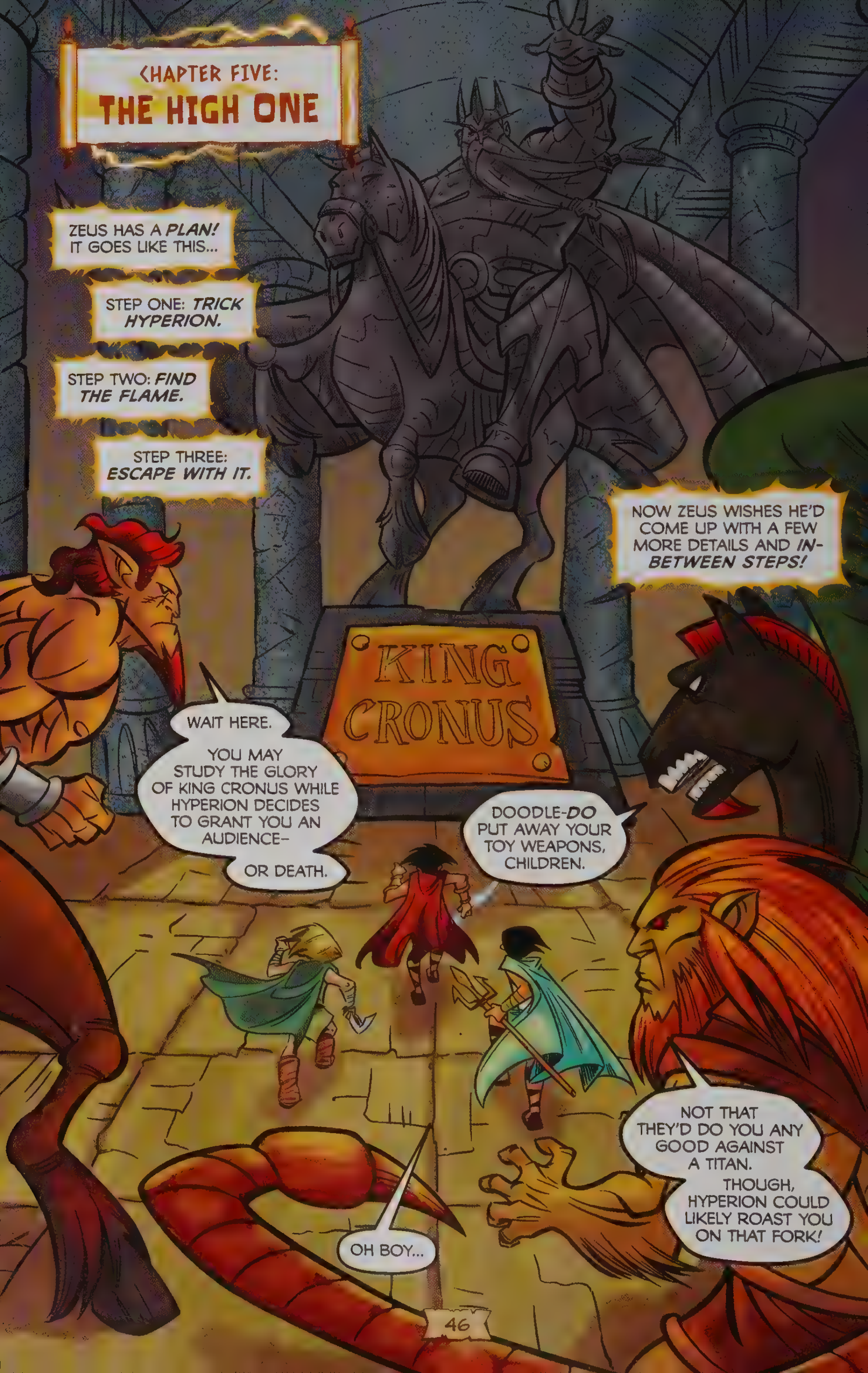

WHOODLE DOODLE-DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
IF YOU THINK I LOOK FUNNY, HAVE YOU TRIED LOOKING IN A MIRROR?
WHOA!
YOU CAN *TALK!*
OF COURSE I CAN.
I'M A *HIPPALECTRYON,* NOT A DODO BIRD!
HIPPA-*WHAT?*
TRY SAYING *THAT* NAME THREE TIMES FAST!
FOR A MOMENT ZEUS THINKS THAT THE ONLY WAY THIS CREATURE WILL HARM THEM IS BY MAKING THEM *LAUGH* TO DEATH.
SUCH INSOLENCE.
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA
MANTICORE!
ONOCENTAUR!

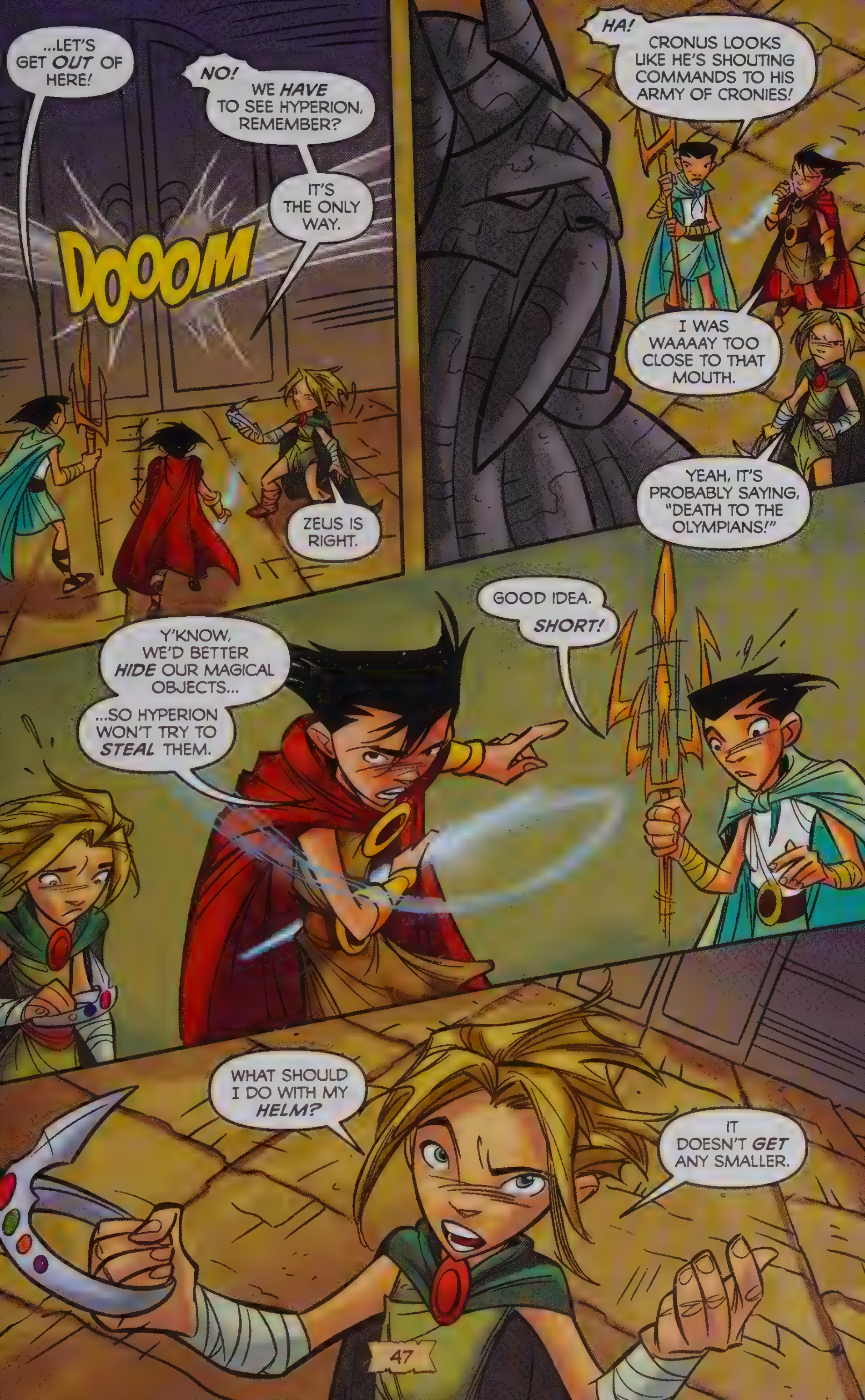

THEN JUST AS SUDDENLY, IT'S *NO* LAUGHING MATTER.
LITTLE HUMANS!
STATE YOUR BUSINESS!
UMM...
...YOU LOOK *HUNGRY...*
...AND WE DON'T WANNA *INTERRUPT* YOU!
SWISSSSSH
I SAID, STATE YOUR BUSINESS!
HYPERION!
WE'RE HERE TO SEE *HYPERION!*
SUFFERIN' SALMON!
YEOW!

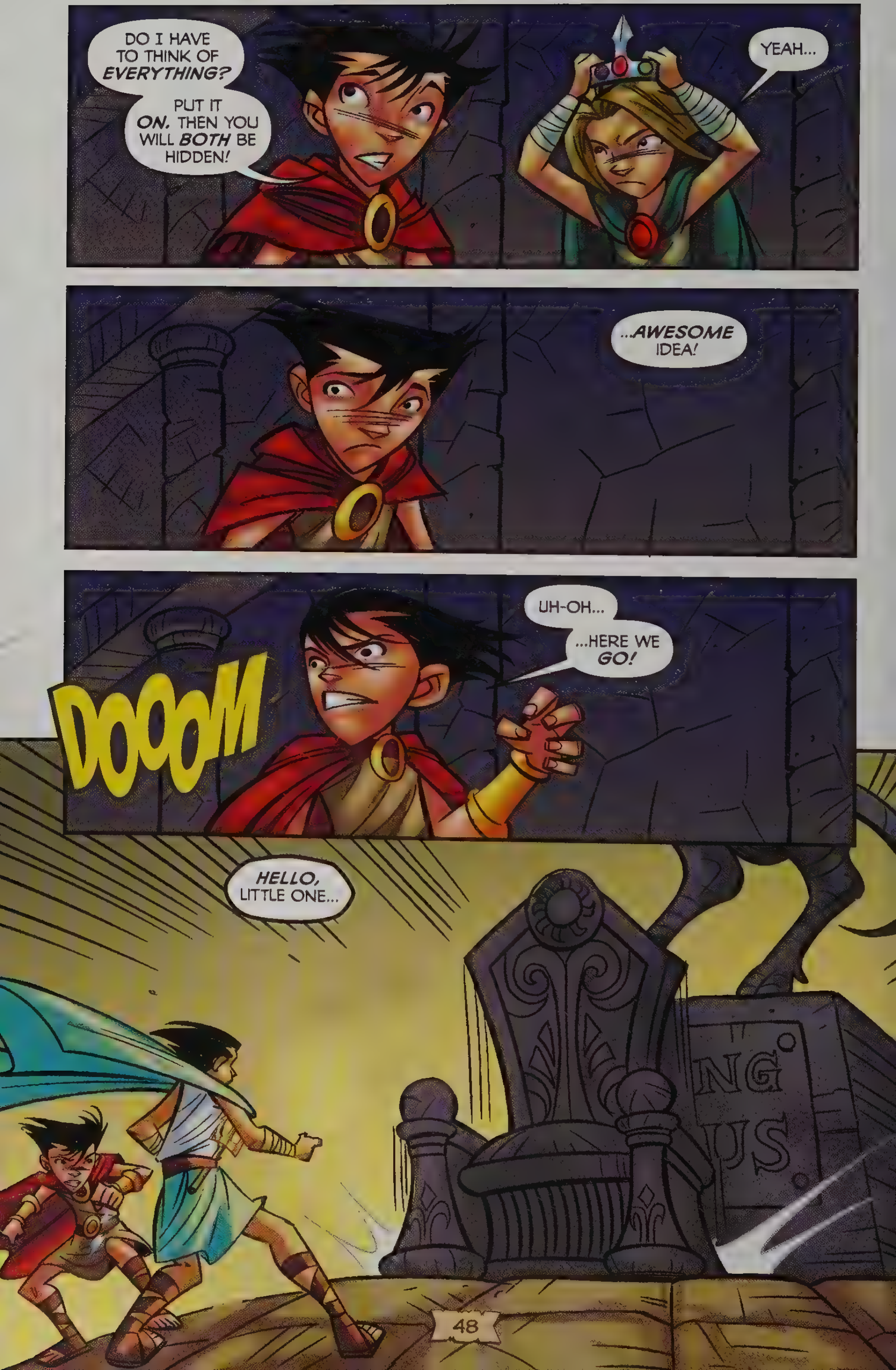

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT THE HIGH ONE, LORD OF LIGHT, HYPERION...
...WILL WANT TO SEE THREE LITTLE NOTHINGS LIKE YOU?
HE'S SEARCHING FOR A CERTAIN *TORCH,* ISN'T HE?
DOODLE-DO YOU HAVE IT?
NOPE, NOPE. I DIDN'T SAY THAT.
BUT WE JUST MIGHT HAVE SOME *INFORMATION* THAT–
CHI-CHI-CHI-CHI
TELL US WHAT YOU KNOW!
OR ELSE!

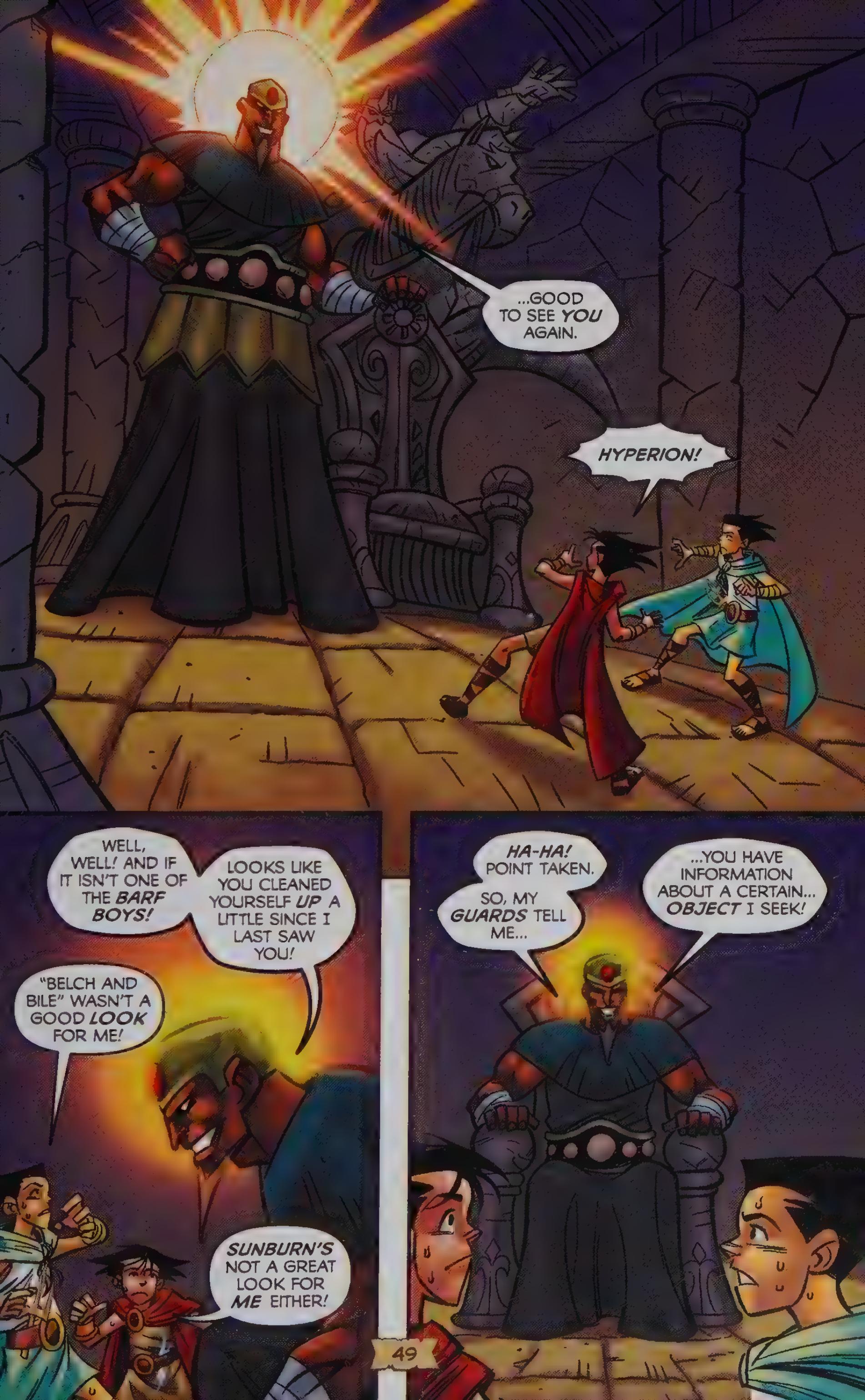

OH, MANTICORE, GIVE IT A *REST.*
HUH?
HYPERION WON' BE HAPPY IF WE SLAY THEM *BEFORE* HE LEARNS THE LOCATION OF THE TORCH.
NO. I GUESS NOT.
WHEW!
BUT MAYBE JUST ONE OF THEM?
NO! NOW MOVE IT, BOYS.
UNLESS YOU DOODLE-*DO* WANT TO BECOME MANTICORE'S BREAKFAST.
I, FOR ONE, AM IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT!
NEVER KILL THE *MESSENGERS!*
AT LEAST, NOT YET!
OOOF!
GULP!

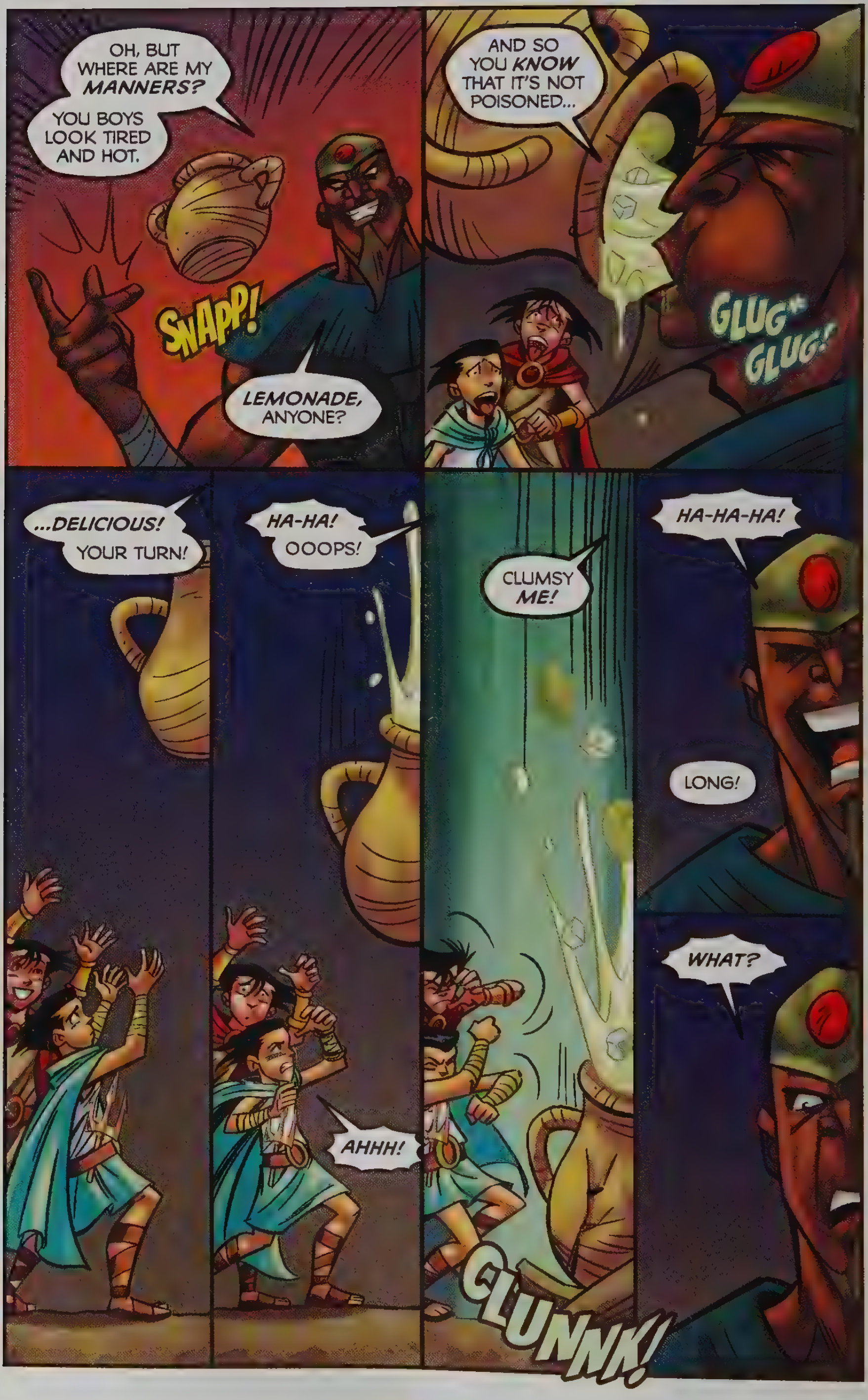
CHAPTER FIVE:
THE HIGH ONE

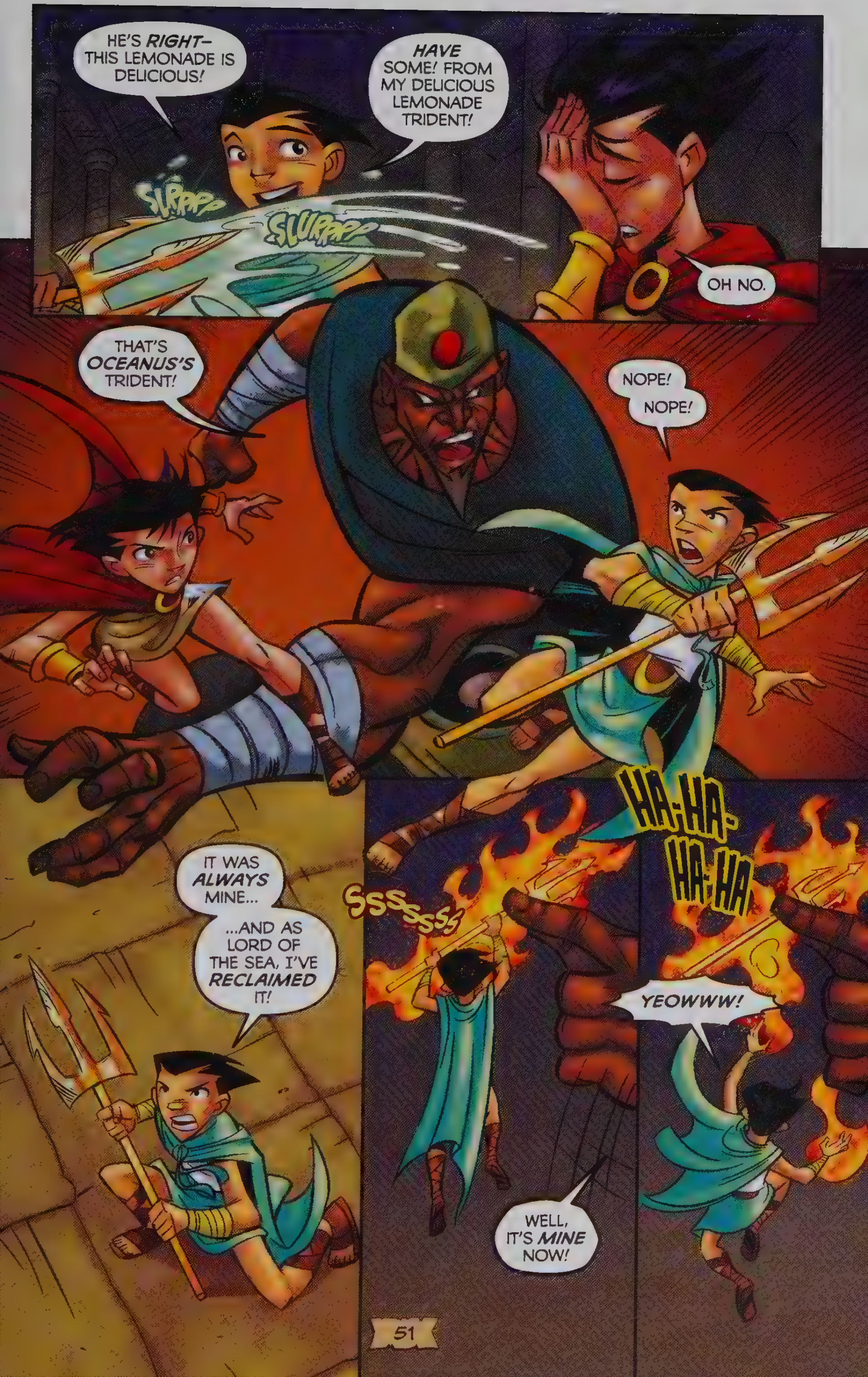

ZEUS HAS A *PLAN!* IT GOES LIKE THIS...
STEP ONE: *TRICK HYPERION.*
STEP TWO: *FIND THE FLAME.*
STEP THREE: *ESCAPE WITH IT.*
NOW ZEUS WISHES HE'D COME UP WITH A FEW MORE DETAILS AND *IN-BETWEEN STEPS!*
KING CRONUS
WAIT HERE.
YOU MAY STUDY THE GLORY OF KING CRONUS WHILE HYPERION DECIDES TO GRANT YOU AN AUDIENCE–
OR DEATH.
DOODLE-*DO* PUT AWAY YOUR TOY WEAPONS, CHILDREN.
NOT THAT THEY'D DO YOU ANY GOOD AGAINST A TITAN.
THOUGH, HYPERION COULD LIKELY ROAST YOU ON THAT FORK!
OH BOY...

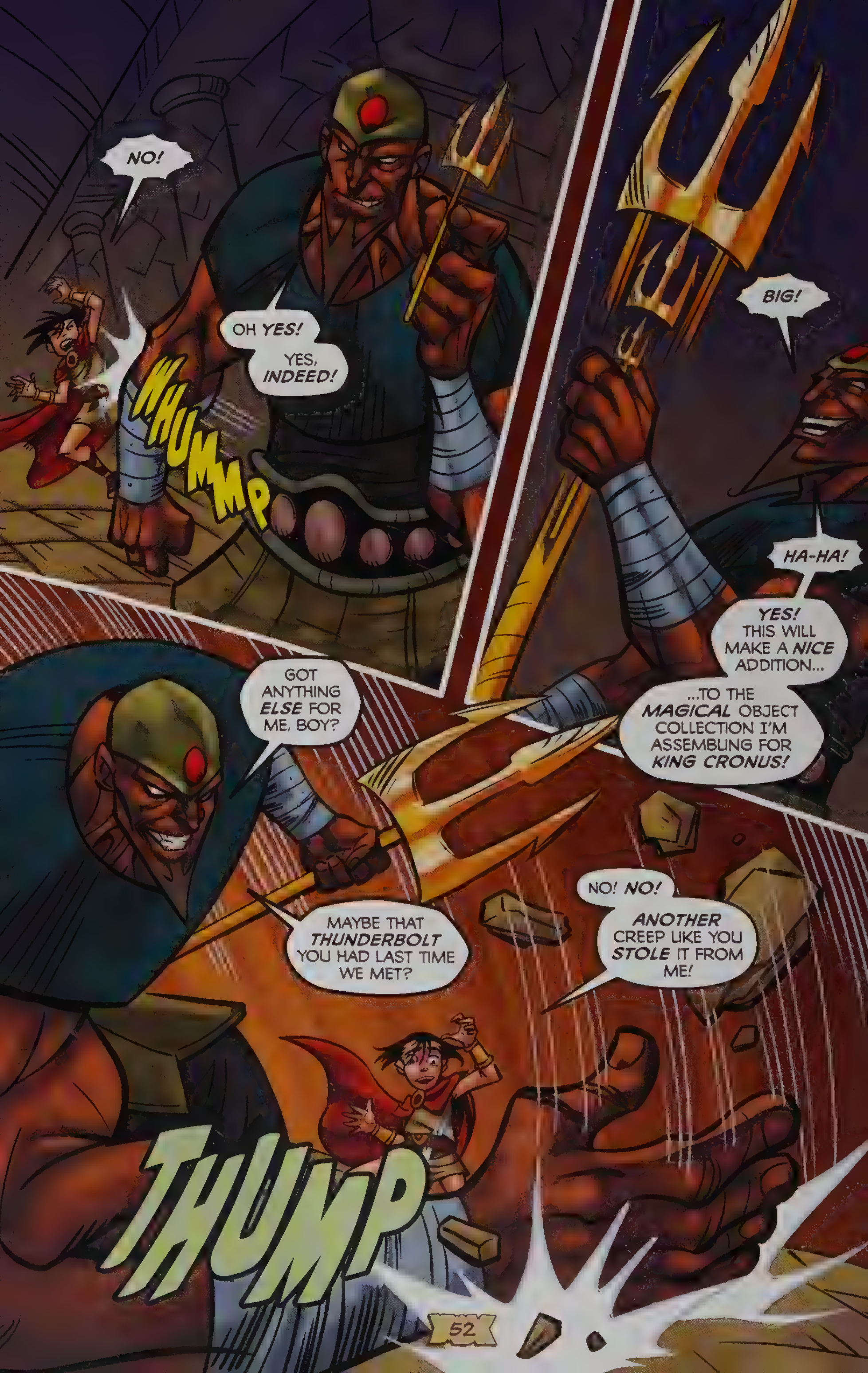

...LET'S GET *OUT* OF HERE!
NO! WE *HAVE* TO SEE HYPERION, REMEMBER?
IT'S THE ONLY WAY.
DOOOM
ZEUS IS RIGHT.
HA! CRONUS LOOKS LIKE HE'S SHOUTING COMMANDS TO HIS ARMY OF CRONIES!
I WAS WAAAAY TOO CLOSE TO THAT MOUTH.
YEAH, IT'S PROBABLY SAYING, "DEATH TO THE OLYMPIANS!"
Y'KNOW, WE'D BETTER *HIDE* OUR MAGICAL OBJECTS...
...SO HYPERION WON'T TRY TO *STEAL* THEM.
GOOD IDEA. *SHORT!*
WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH MY *HELM?*
IT DOESN'T *GET* ANY SMALLER.

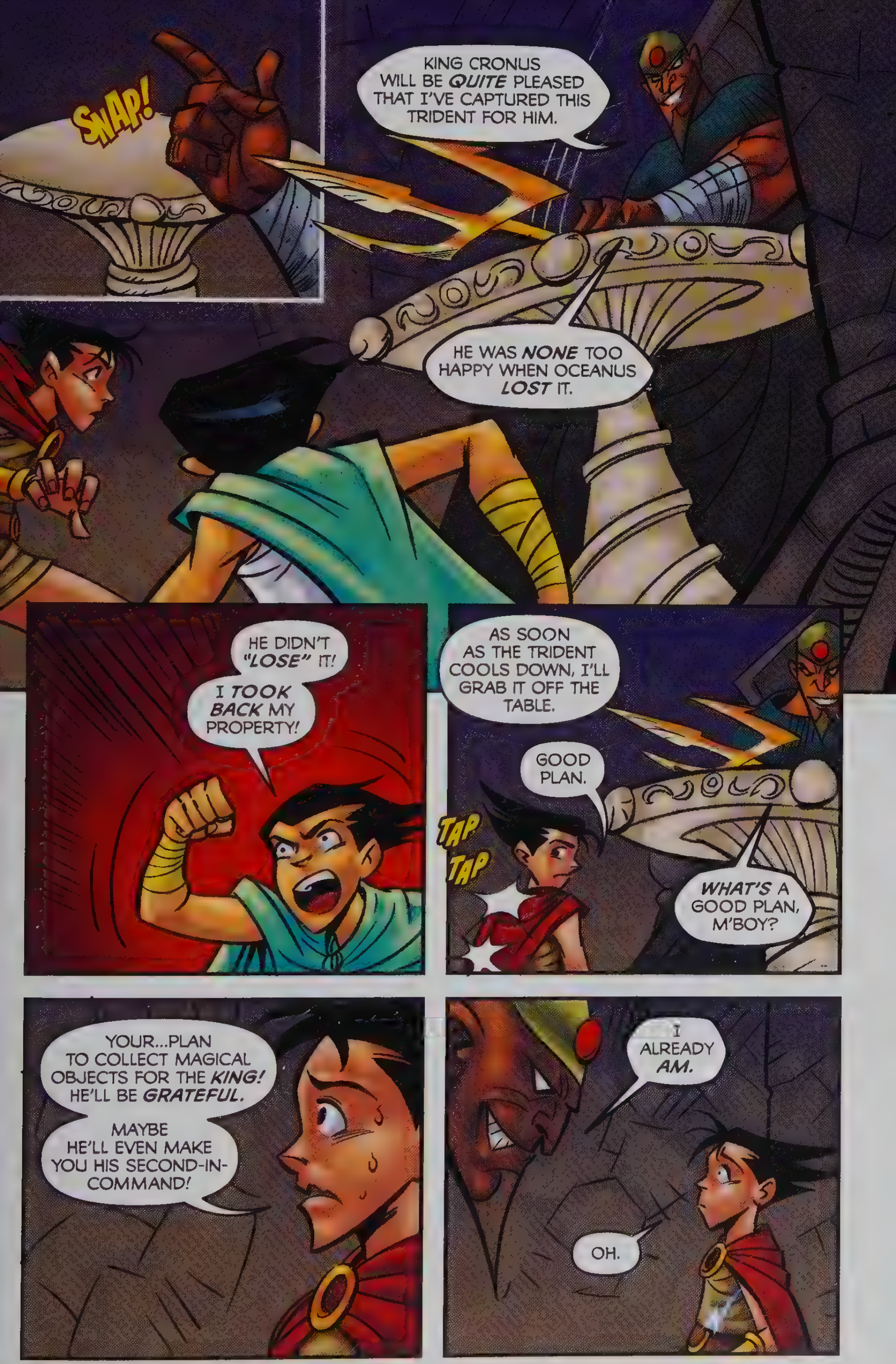

DO I HAVE TO THINK OF *EVERYTHING?*
PUT IT *ON.* THEN YOU WILL *BOTH* BE HIDDEN!
YEAH...
...*AWESOME* IDEA!
UH-OH...
...HERE WE *GO!*
DOOOM
HELLO, LITTLE ONE...
NG
US

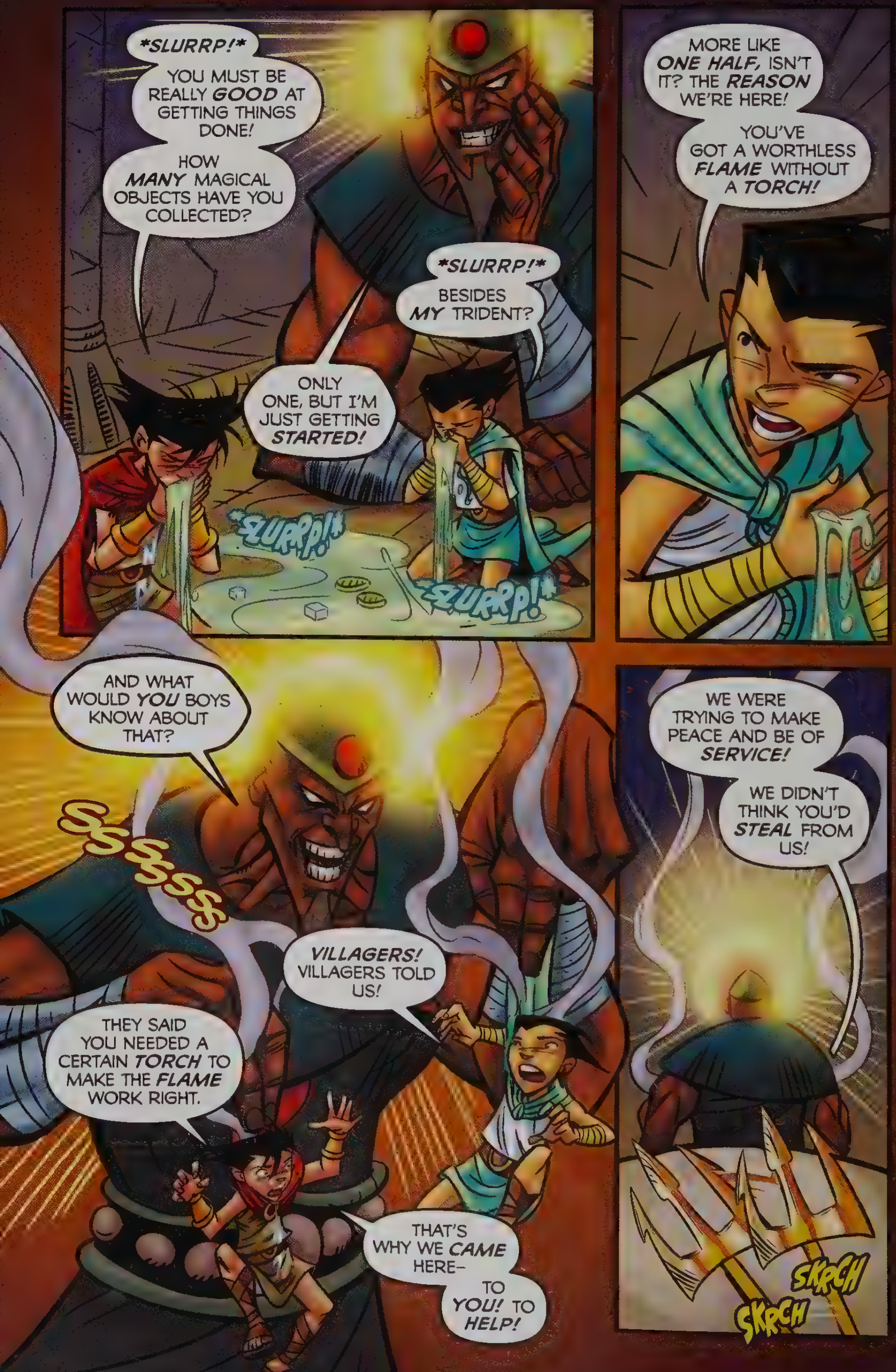

...GOOD TO SEE *YOU* AGAIN.
HYPERION!
WELL, WELL! AND IF IT ISN'T ONE OF THE *BARF BOYS!*
LOOKS LIKE YOU CLEANED YOURSELF *UP* A LITTLE SINCE I LAST SAW YOU!
"BELCH AND BILE" WASN'T A GOOD *LOOK* FOR ME!
SUNBURN'S NOT A GREAT LOOK FOR *ME* EITHER!
HA-HA! POINT TAKEN.
SO, MY *GUARDS* TELL ME...
...YOU HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT A CERTAIN... *OBJECT* I SEEK!

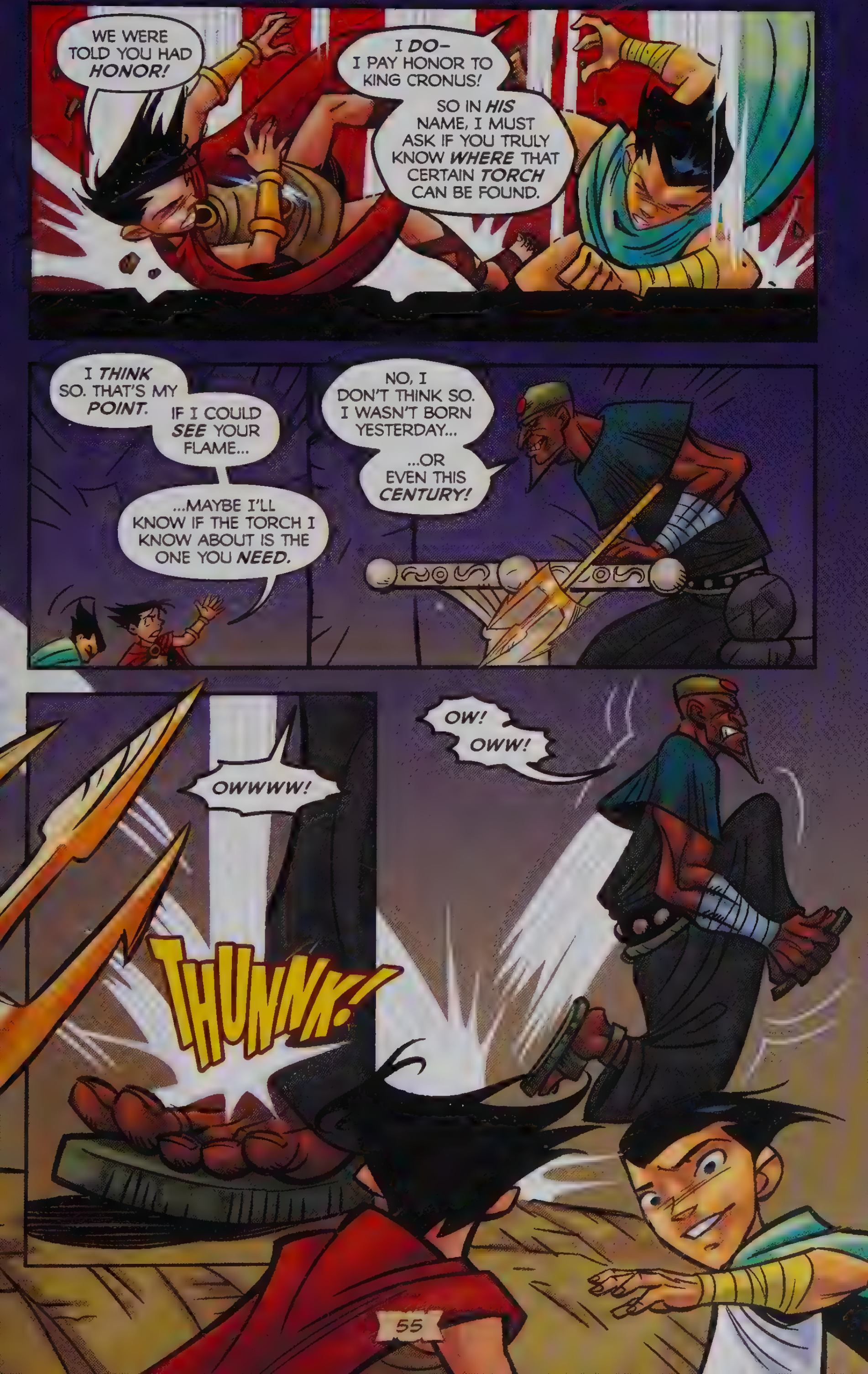

OH, BUT WHERE ARE MY *MANNERS?*
YOU BOYS LOOK TIRED AND HOT.
SNAPP!
LEMONADE, ANYONE?
AND SO YOU *KNOW* THAT IT'S NOT POISONED...
GLUG GLUG!
...DELICIOUS!
YOUR TURN!
HA-HA!
OOOPS!
AHHH!
CLUMSY *ME!*
CLUNNK!
HA-HA-HA!
LONG!
WHAT?

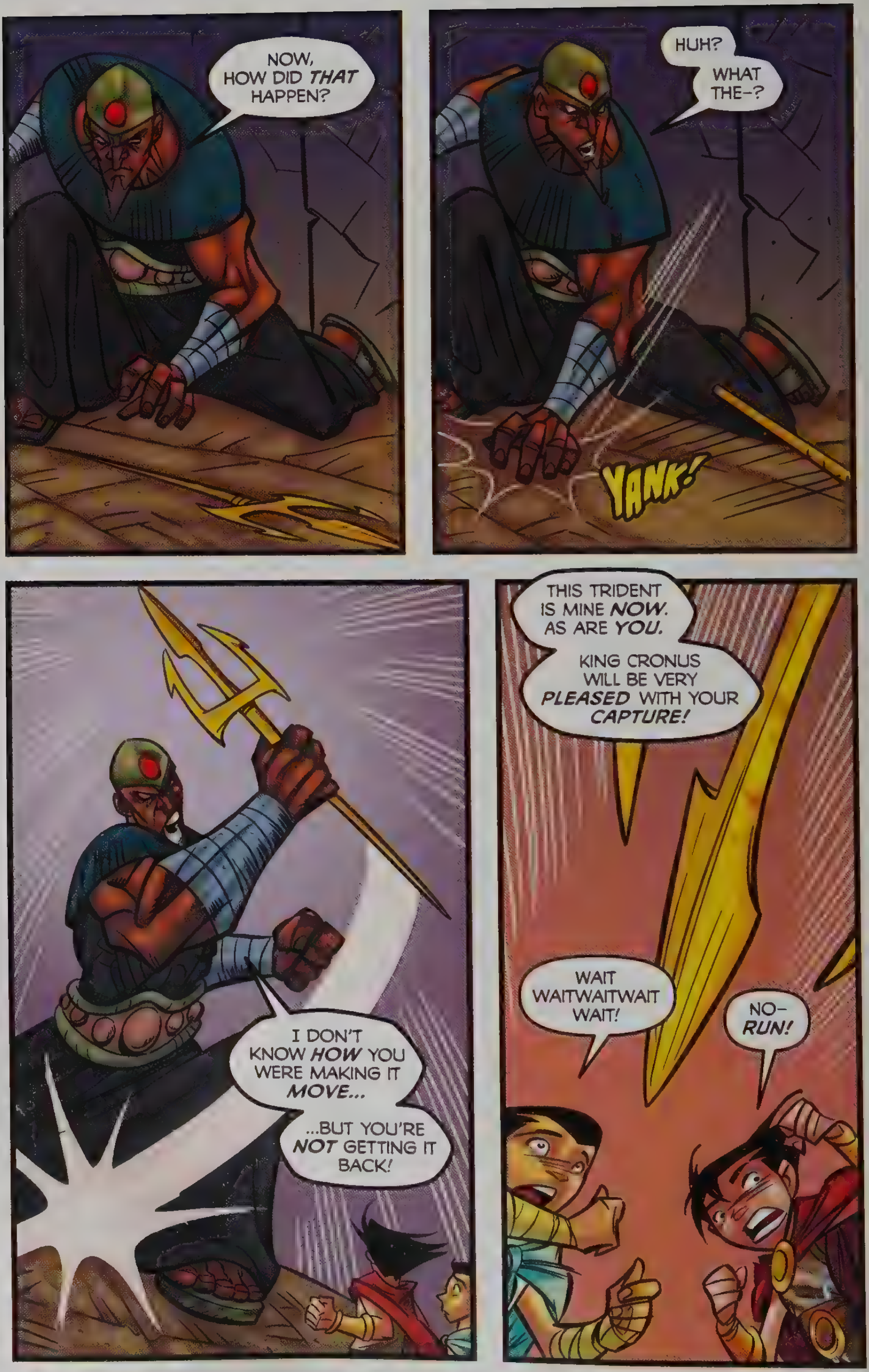

HE'S *RIGHT*– THIS LEMONADE IS DELICIOUS!
SLRPP
SLURPP
HAVE SOME! FROM MY DELICIOUS LEMONADE TRIDENT!
OH NO.
THAT'S *OCEANUS'S* TRIDENT!
NOPE! NOPE!
IT WAS *ALWAYS* MINE...
...AND AS LORD OF THE SEA, I'VE *RECLAIMED* IT!
SSSSSSS
HA-HA-HA-HA
YEOWWW!
WELL, IT'S *MINE* NOW!

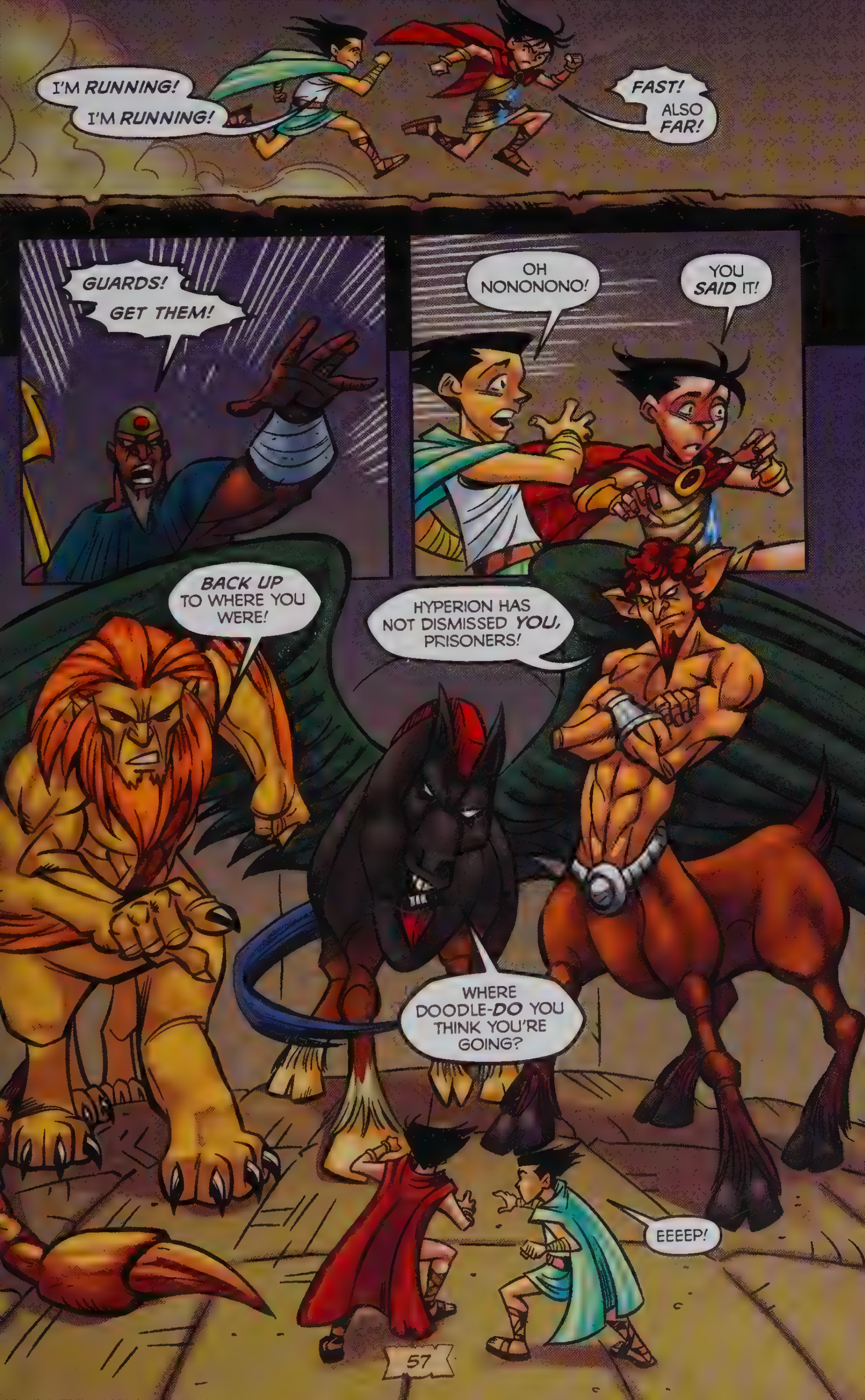

NO!
OH YES!
YES, INDEED!
WHHUMMP
BIG!
HA-HA!
YES! THIS WILL MAKE A NICE ADDITION...
...TO THE MAGICAL OBJECT COLLECTION I'M ASSEMBLING FOR KING CRONUS!
GOT ANYTHING ELSE FOR ME, BOY?
MAYBE THAT THUNDERBOLT YOU HAD LAST TIME WE MET?
NO! NO!
ANOTHER CREEP LIKE YOU STOLE IT FROM ME!
THUMP

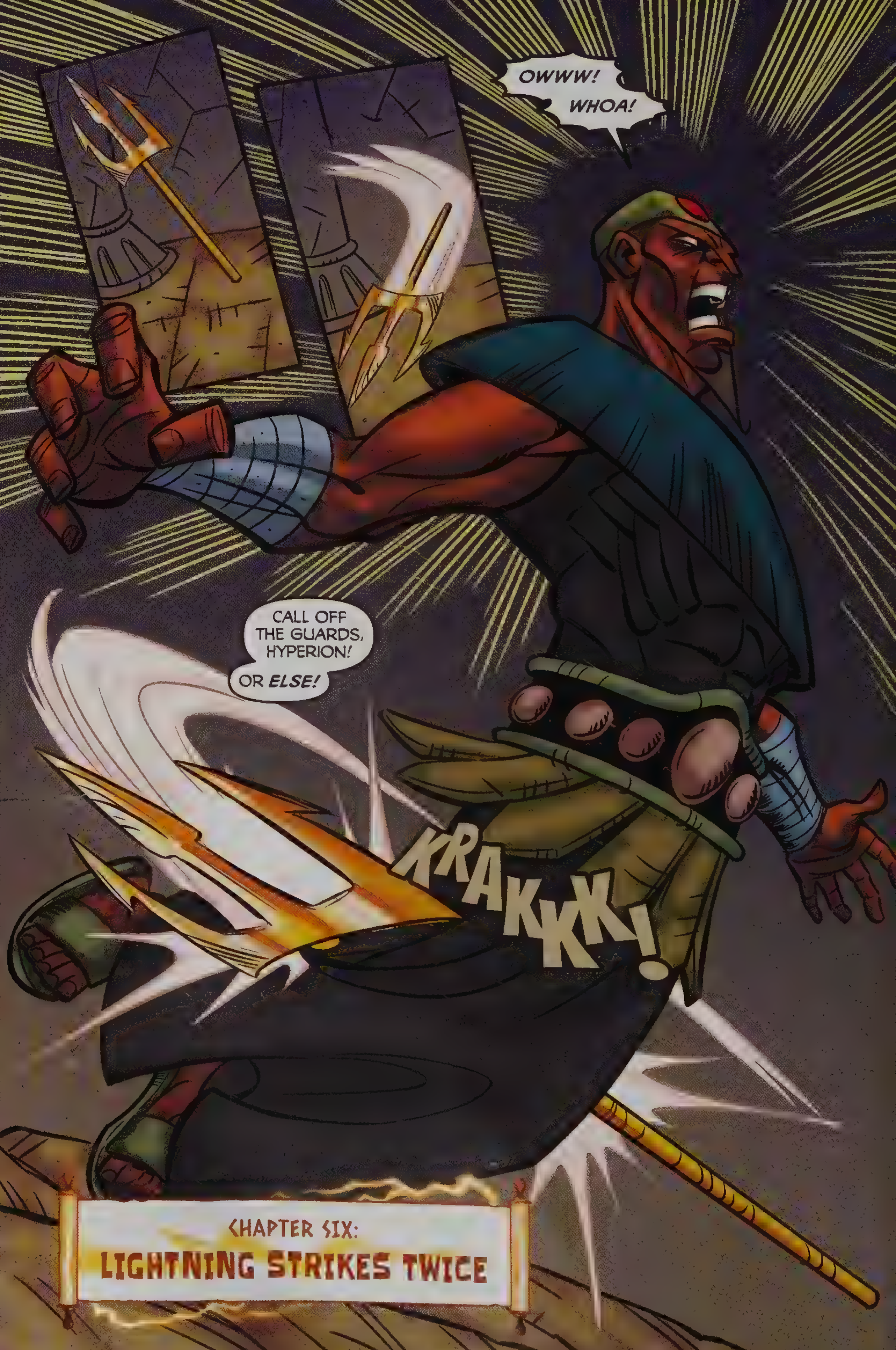

SNAP!
KING CRONUS WILL BE *QUITE* PLEASED THAT I'VE CAPTURED THIS TRIDENT FOR HIM.
HE WAS *NONE* TOO HAPPY WHEN OCEANUS *LOST* IT.
HE DIDN'T *"LOSE"* IT!
I *TOOK BACK* MY PROPERTY!
AS SOON AS THE TRIDENT COOLS DOWN, I'LL GRAB IT OFF THE TABLE.
GOOD PLAN.
TAP TAP
WHAT'S A GOOD PLAN, M'BOY?
YOUR...PLAN TO COLLECT MAGICAL OBJECTS FOR THE *KING!* HE'LL BE *GRATEFUL.*
MAYBE HE'LL EVEN MAKE YOU HIS SECOND-IN-COMMAND!
I ALREADY *AM.*
OH.


SLURRP!
YOU MUST BE REALLY GOOD AT GETTING THINGS DONE!
HOW MANY MAGICAL OBJECTS HAVE YOU COLLECTED?
SLURRP!
BESIDES MY TRIDENT?
ONLY ONE, BUT I'M JUST GETTING STARTED!
SLURRP!
SLURRP!
MORE LIKE ONE HALF, ISN'T IT? THE REASON WE'RE HERE!
YOU'VE GOT A WORTHLESS FLAME WITHOUT A TORCH!
AND WHAT WOULD YOU BOYS KNOW ABOUT THAT?
SSSSSS
VILLAGERS! VILLAGERS TOLD US!
THEY SAID YOU NEEDED A CERTAIN TORCH TO MAKE THE FLAME WORK RIGHT.
THAT'S WHY WE CAME HERE–
TO YOU! TO HELP!
WE WERE TRYING TO MAKE PEACE AND BE OF SERVICE!
WE DIDN'T THINK YOU'D STEAL FROM US!
SKRCH
SKRCH

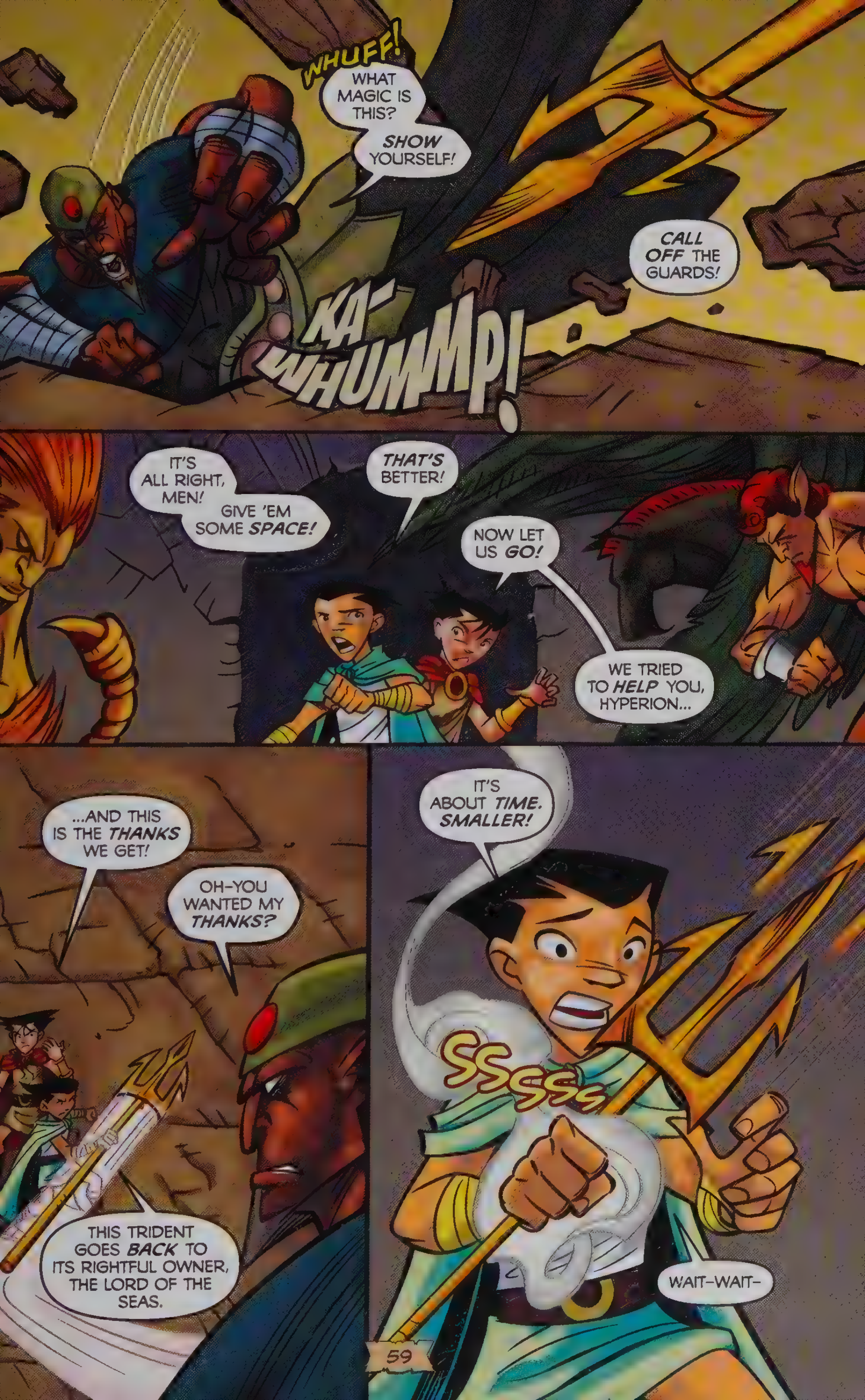

WE WERE TOLD YOU HAD *HONOR!*
I *DO*– I PAY HONOR TO KING CRONUS!
SO IN *HIS* NAME, I MUST ASK IF YOU TRULY KNOW *WHERE* THAT CERTAIN *TORCH* CAN BE FOUND.
I *THINK* SO. THAT'S MY *POINT.*
IF I COULD *SEE* YOUR FLAME...
...MAYBE I'LL KNOW IF THE TORCH I KNOW ABOUT IS THE ONE YOU *NEED.*
NO, I DON'T THINK SO. I WASN'T BORN YESTERDAY...
...OR EVEN THIS *CENTURY!*
OW! OWW!
OWWWW!
THUNNK!

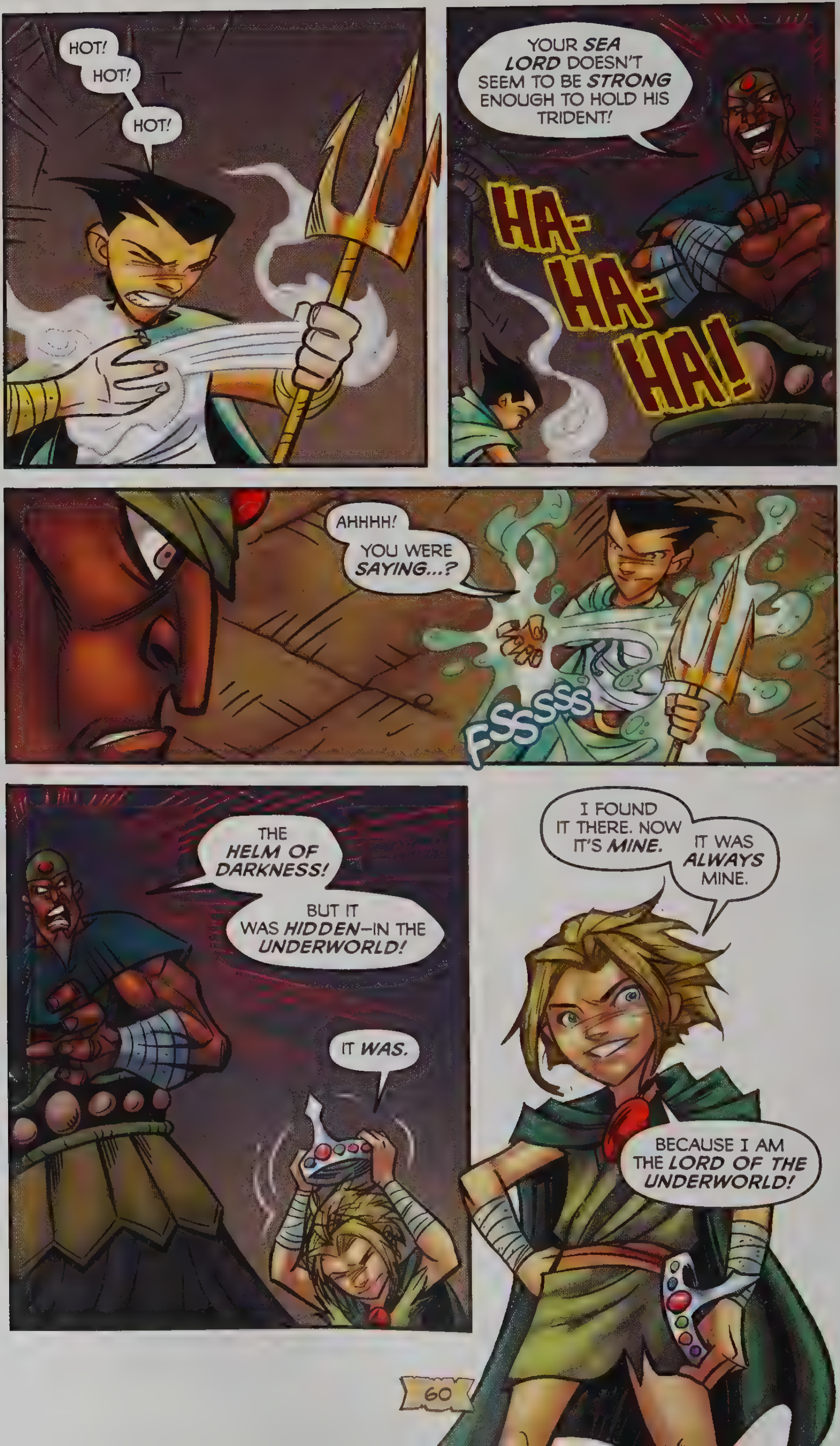

NOW, HOW DID *THAT* HAPPEN?
HUH?
WHAT THE–?
YANK!
I DON'T KNOW *HOW* YOU WERE MAKING IT *MOVE...*
...BUT YOU'RE *NOT* GETTING IT BACK!
THIS TRIDENT IS MINE *NOW.* AS ARE *YOU.*
KING CRONUS WILL BE VERY *PLEASED* WITH YOUR *CAPTURE!*
WAIT WAITWAITWAIT WAIT!
NO– *RUN!*

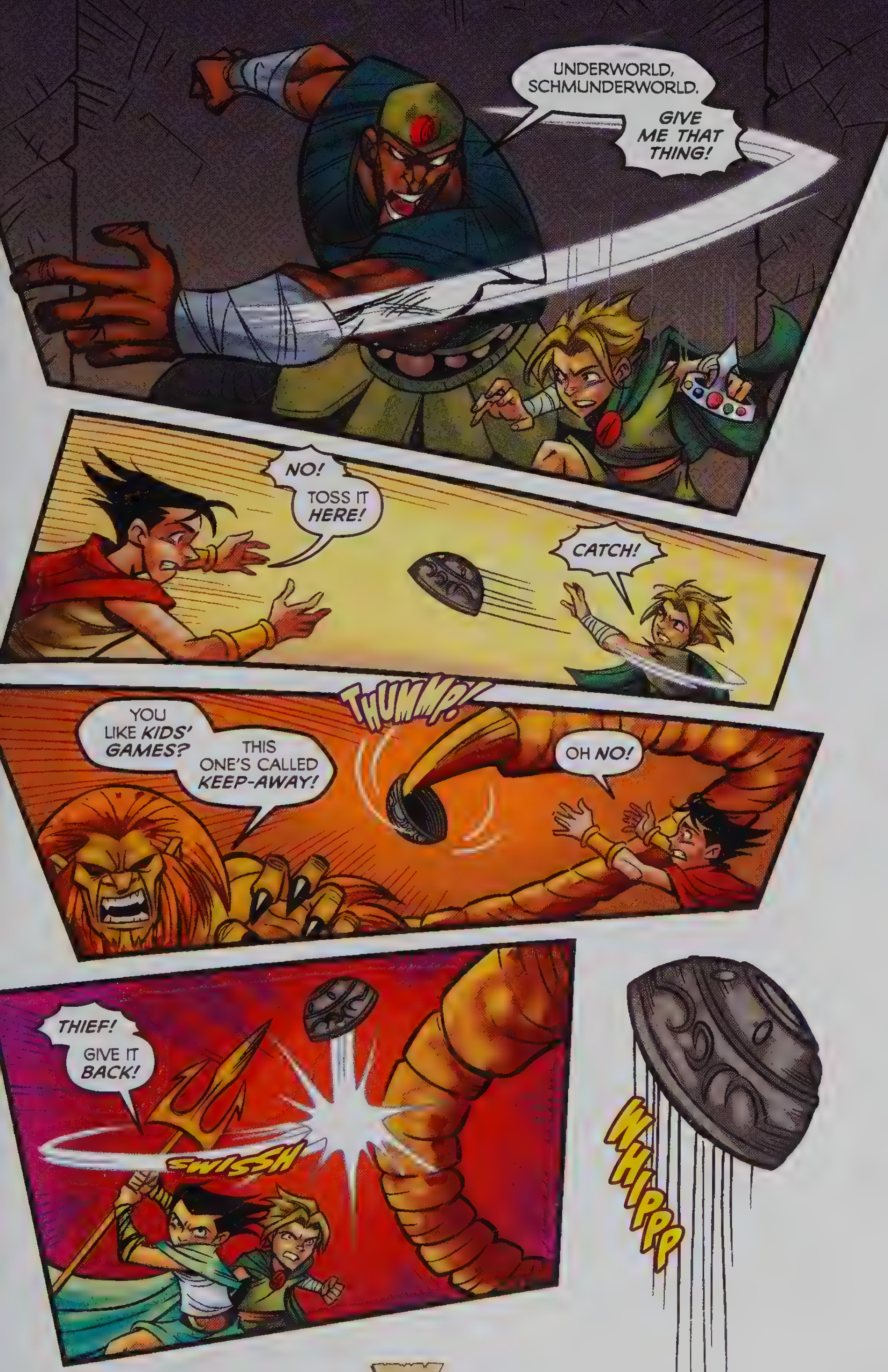

I'M *RUNNING!* I'M *RUNNING!*
FAST! ALSO *FAR!*
GUARDS! GET THEM!
OH NONONONO!
YOU *SAID* IT!
BACK UP TO WHERE YOU WERE!
HYPERION HAS NOT DISMISSED *YOU,* PRISONERS!
WHERE DOODLE-*DO* YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
EEEEP!

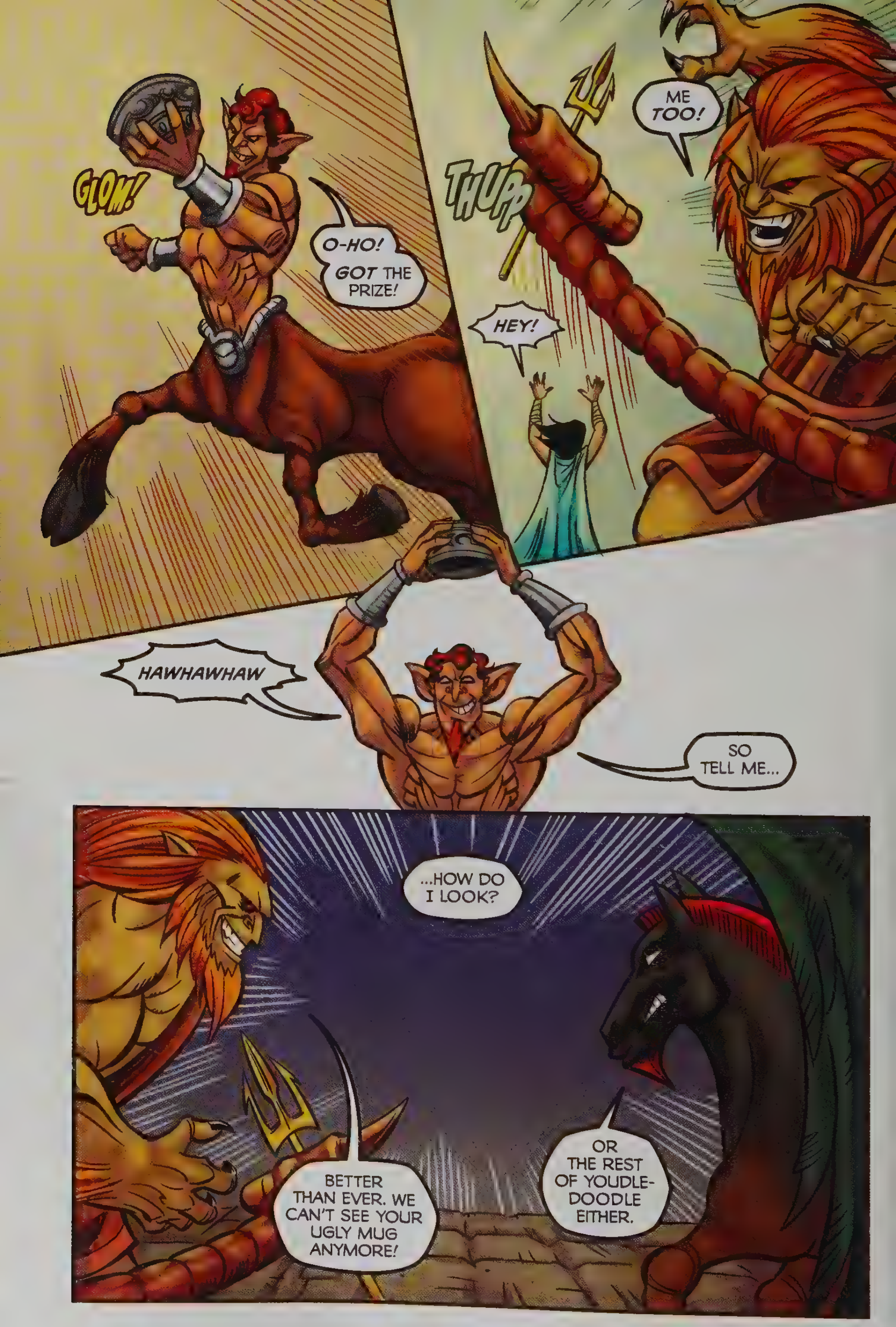

OWWW!
WHOA!
CALL OFF THE GUARDS, HYPERION!
OR *ELSE!*
KRAKKK!

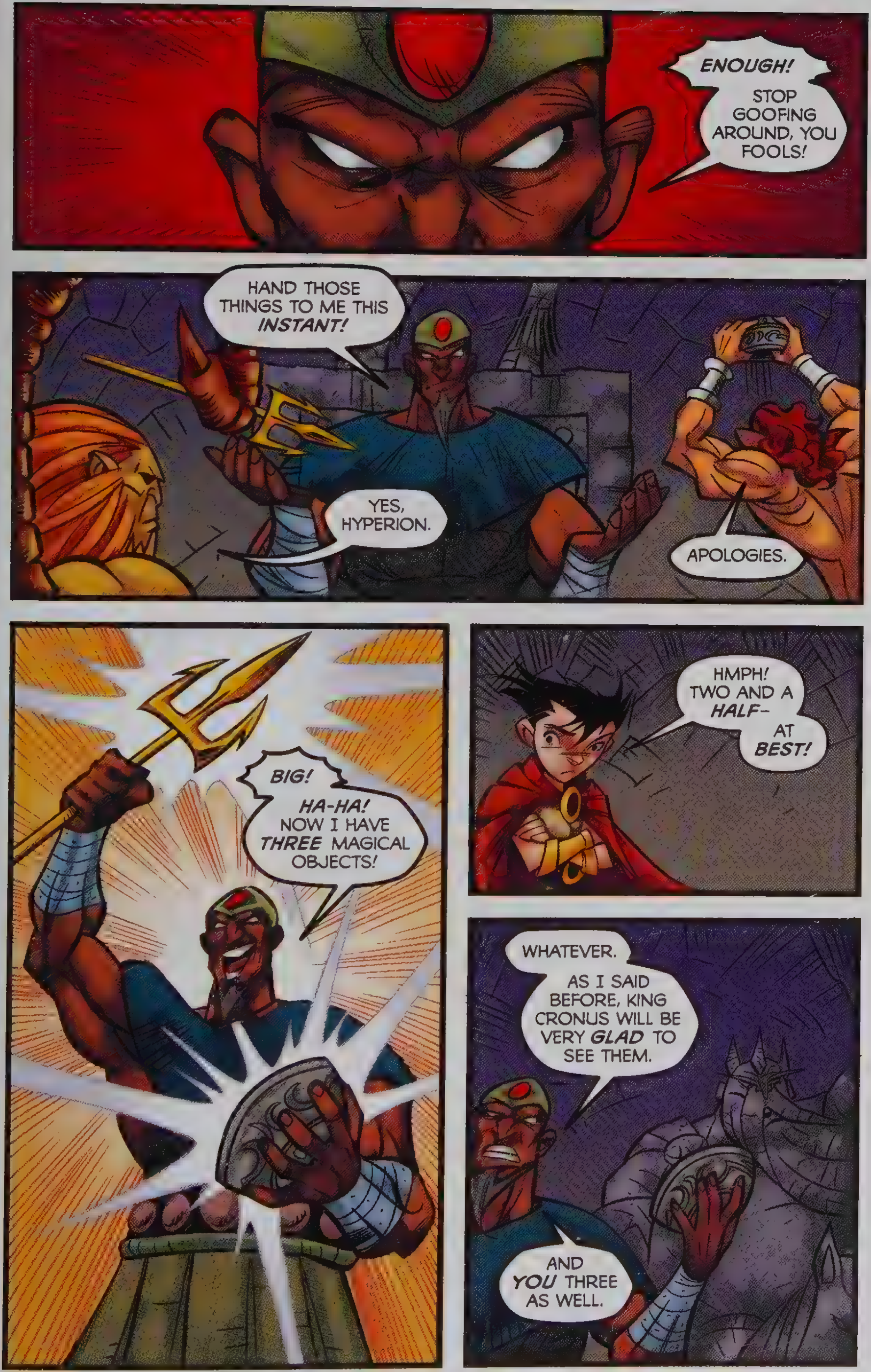
CHAPTER SIX:
LIGHTNING STRIKES TWICE

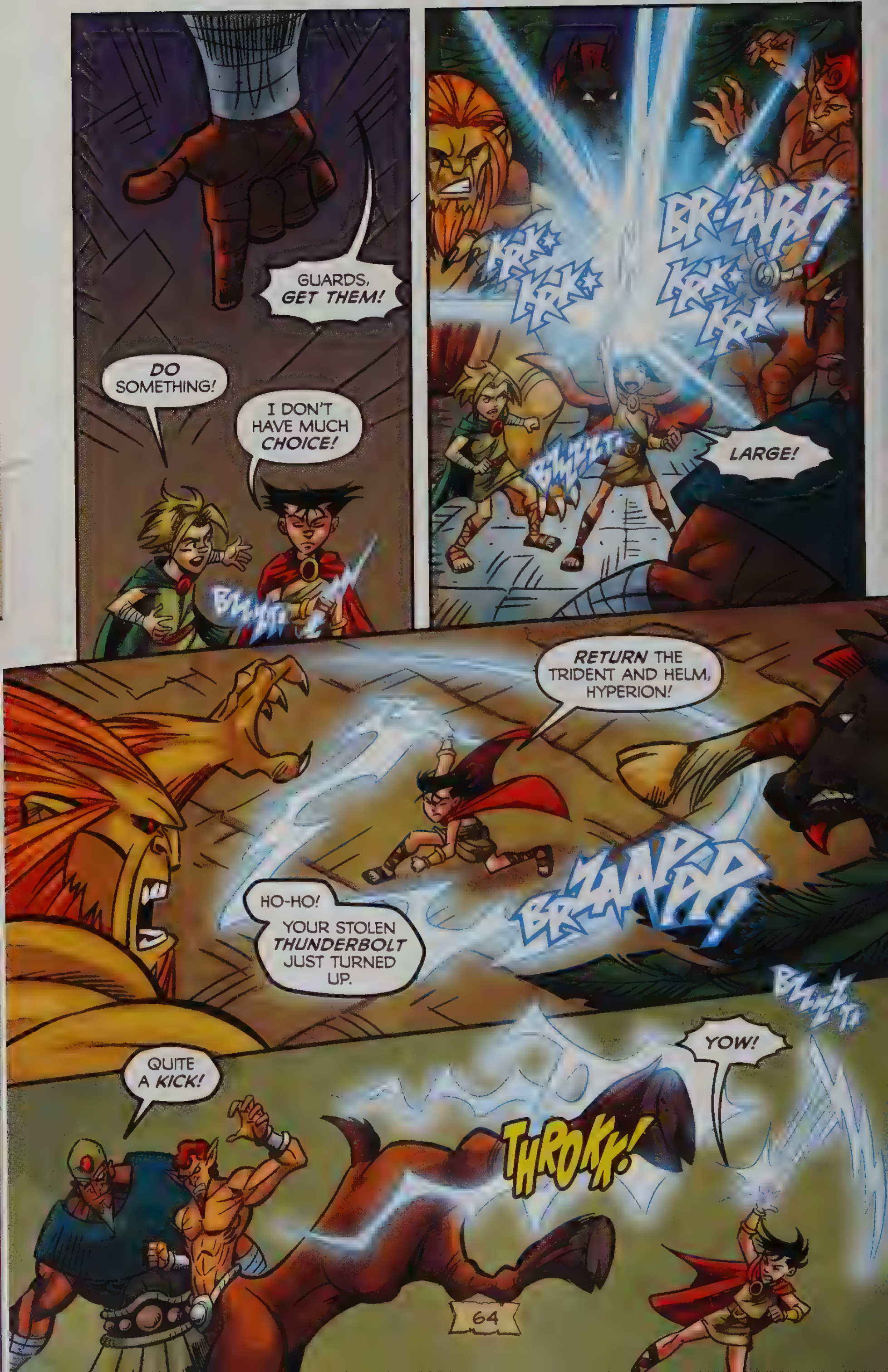

WHUFF!
WHAT MAGIC IS THIS?
SHOW YOURSELF!
CALL OFF THE GUARDS!
KA-WHUMMMP!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, MEN!
GIVE 'EM SOME SPACE!
THAT'S BETTER!
NOW LET US GO!
WE TRIED TO HELP YOU, HYPERION...
...AND THIS IS THE THANKS WE GET!
OH-YOU WANTED MY THANKS?
THIS TRIDENT GOES BACK TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER, THE LORD OF THE SEAS.
IT'S ABOUT TIME. SMALLER!
SSSSSS
WAIT-WAIT-

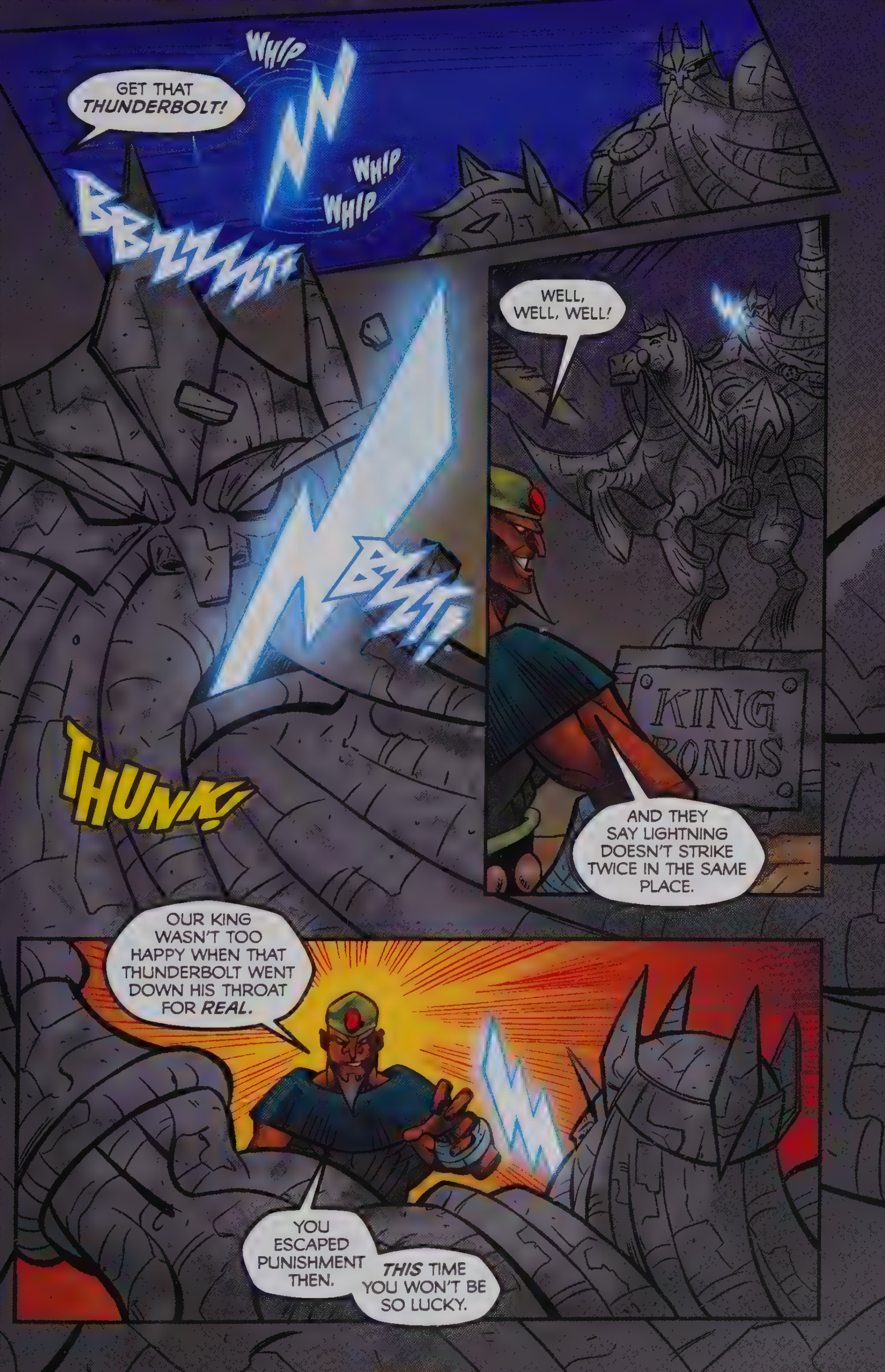

HOT!
HOT!
HOT!
YOUR SEA LORD DOESN'T SEEM TO BE STRONG ENOUGH TO HOLD HIS TRIDENT!
HA-HA-HA!
AHHHH!
YOU WERE SAYING...?
FSSSSS
THE HELM OF DARKNESS!
BUT IT WAS HIDDEN—IN THE UNDERWORLD!
IT WAS.
I FOUND IT THERE. NOW IT'S MINE.
IT WAS ALWAYS MINE.
BECAUSE I AM THE LORD OF THE UNDERWORLD!

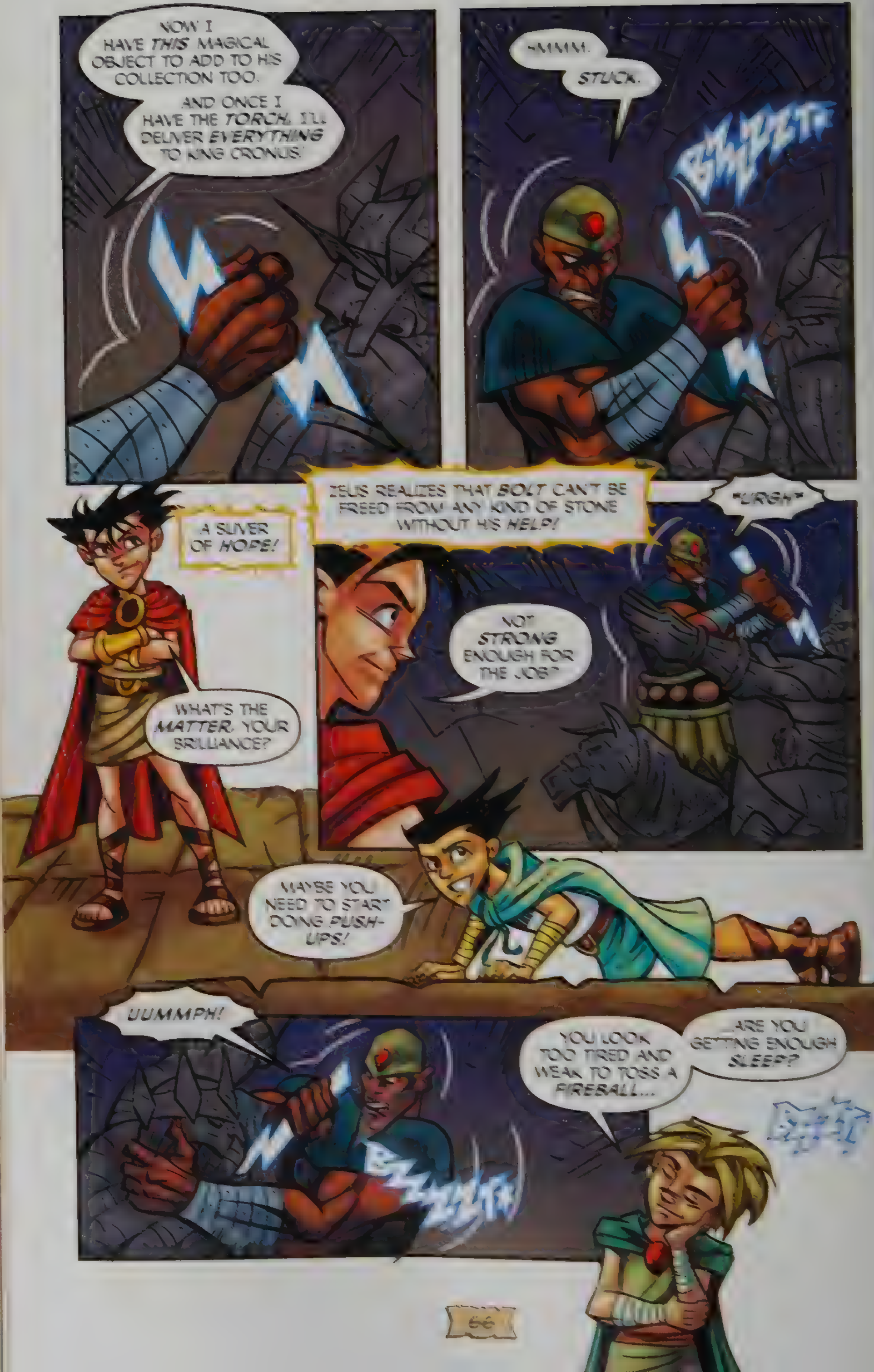

UNDERWORLD, SCHMUNDERWORLD. *GIVE ME THAT THING!*
NO! TOSS IT *HERE!*
CATCH!
THUMMP!
YOU LIKE *KIDS' GAMES?* THIS ONE'S CALLED *KEEP-AWAY!*
OH *NO!*
THIEF! GIVE IT *BACK!*
SWISSH
WHIPPP

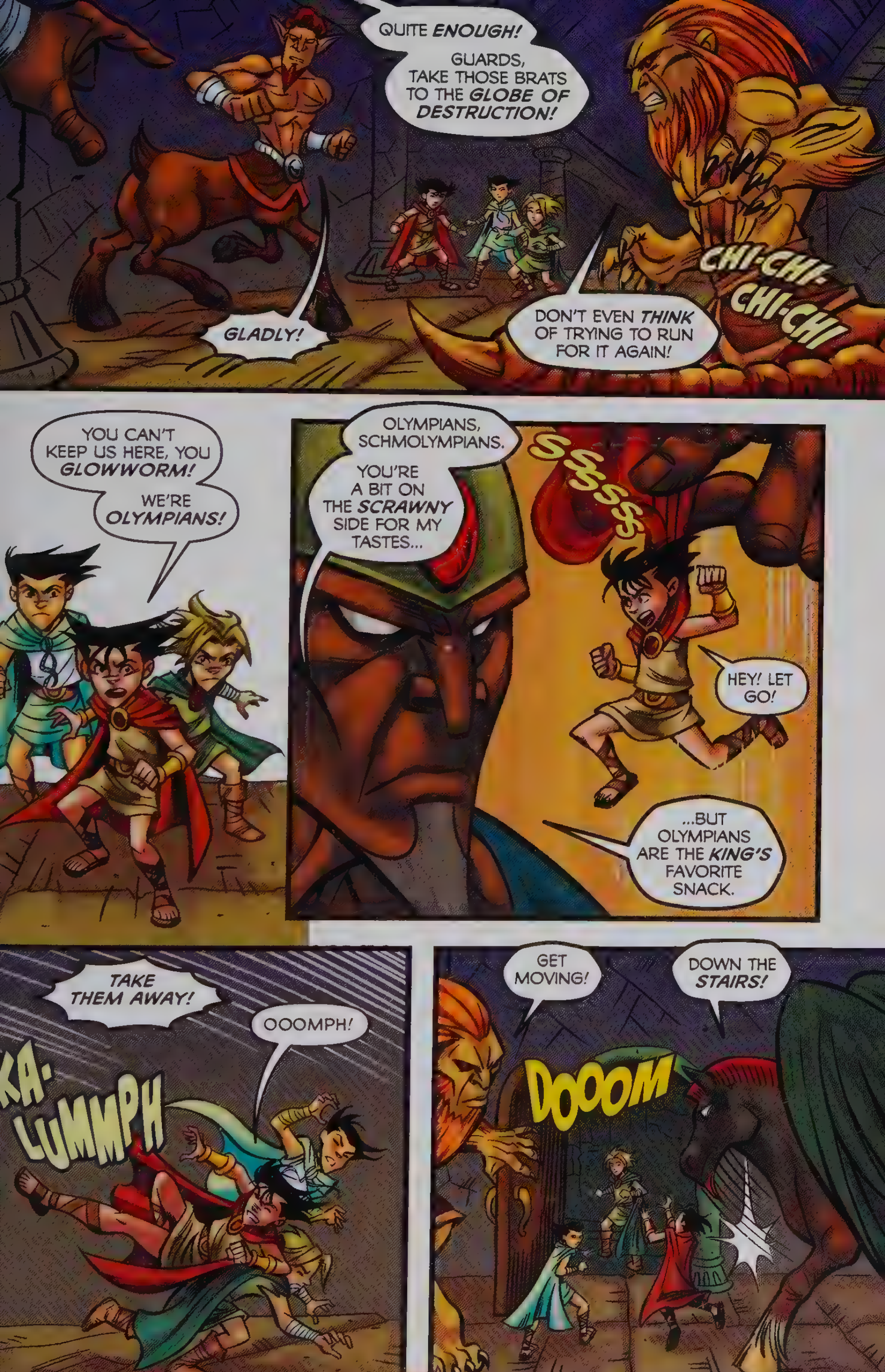

GLOM!
O-HO! GOT THE PRIZE!
THUPP
ME TOO!
HEY!
HAWHAWHAW
SO TELL ME...
...HOW DO I LOOK?
BETTER THAN EVER. WE CAN'T SEE YOUR UGLY MUG ANYMORE!
OR THE REST OF YOUDLE-DOODLE EITHER.

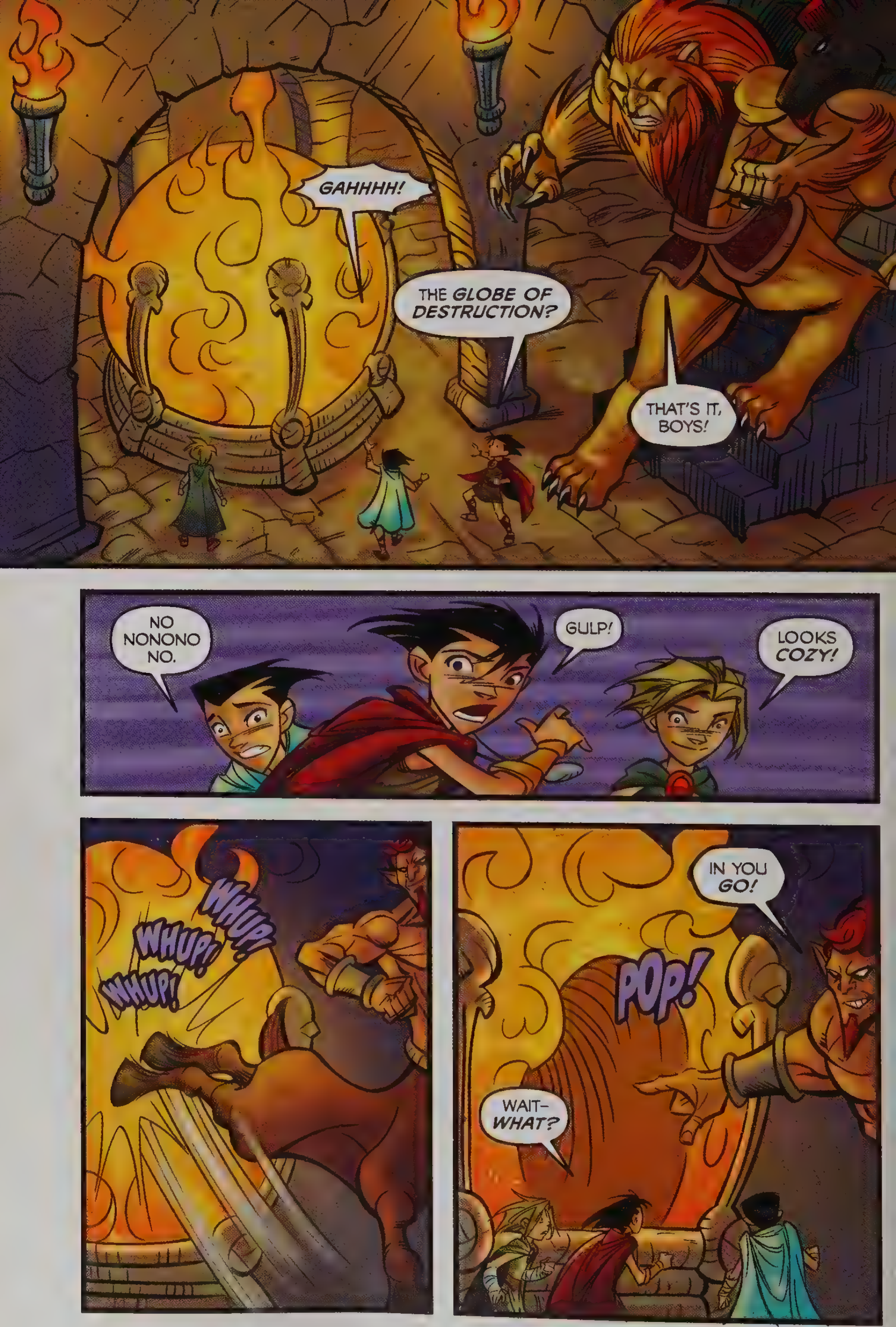

ENOUGH! STOP GOOFING AROUND, YOU FOOLS!
HAND THOSE THINGS TO ME THIS INSTANT!
YES, HYPERION.
APOLOGIES.
BIG! HA-HA! NOW I HAVE THREE MAGICAL OBJECTS!
HMPH! TWO AND A HALF– AT BEST!
WHATEVER. AS I SAID BEFORE, KING CRONUS WILL BE VERY GLAD TO SEE THEM.
AND YOU THREE AS WELL.


GUARDS, GET THEM!
DO SOMETHING!
I DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE!
BZZZT
KRK-KRK
BR-ZAPP!
KRK-KRK
BZZZT
LARGE!
RETURN THE TRIDENT AND HELM, HYPERION!
HO-HO!
YOUR STOLEN THUNDERBOLT JUST TURNED UP.
BRZAAPP!
BZZZT
QUITE A KICK!
YOW!
THROKK!

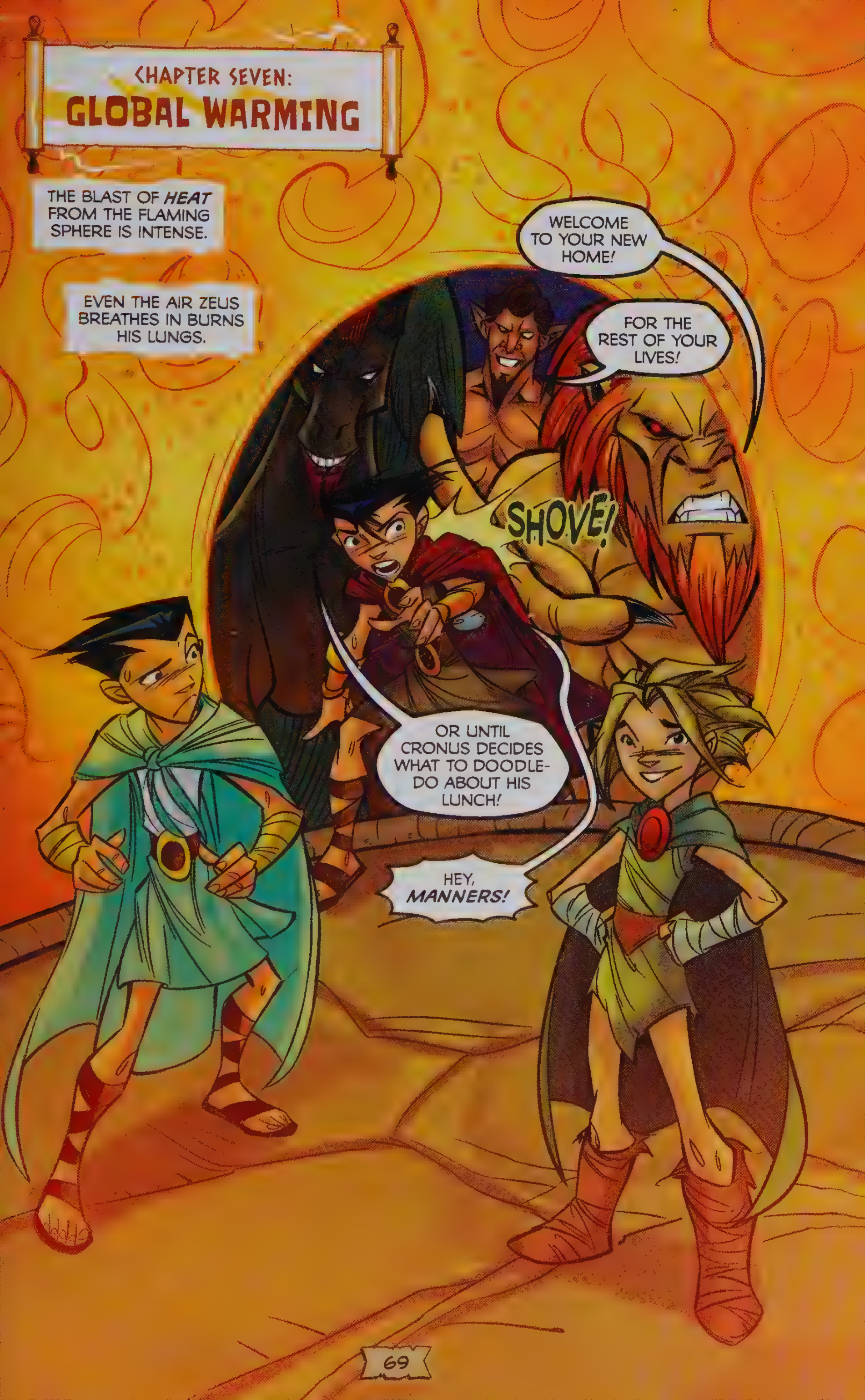

GET THAT *THUNDERBOLT!*
WHIP
WHIP
WHIP
BBZZZZZT!
BZZT!
THUNK!
WELL, WELL, WELL!
KING BONUS
AND THEY SAY LIGHTNING DOESN'T STRIKE TWICE IN THE SAME PLACE.
OUR KING WASN'T TOO HAPPY WHEN THAT THUNDERBOLT WENT DOWN HIS THROAT FOR *REAL.*
YOU ESCAPED PUNISHMENT THEN.
THIS TIME YOU WON'T BE SO LUCKY.

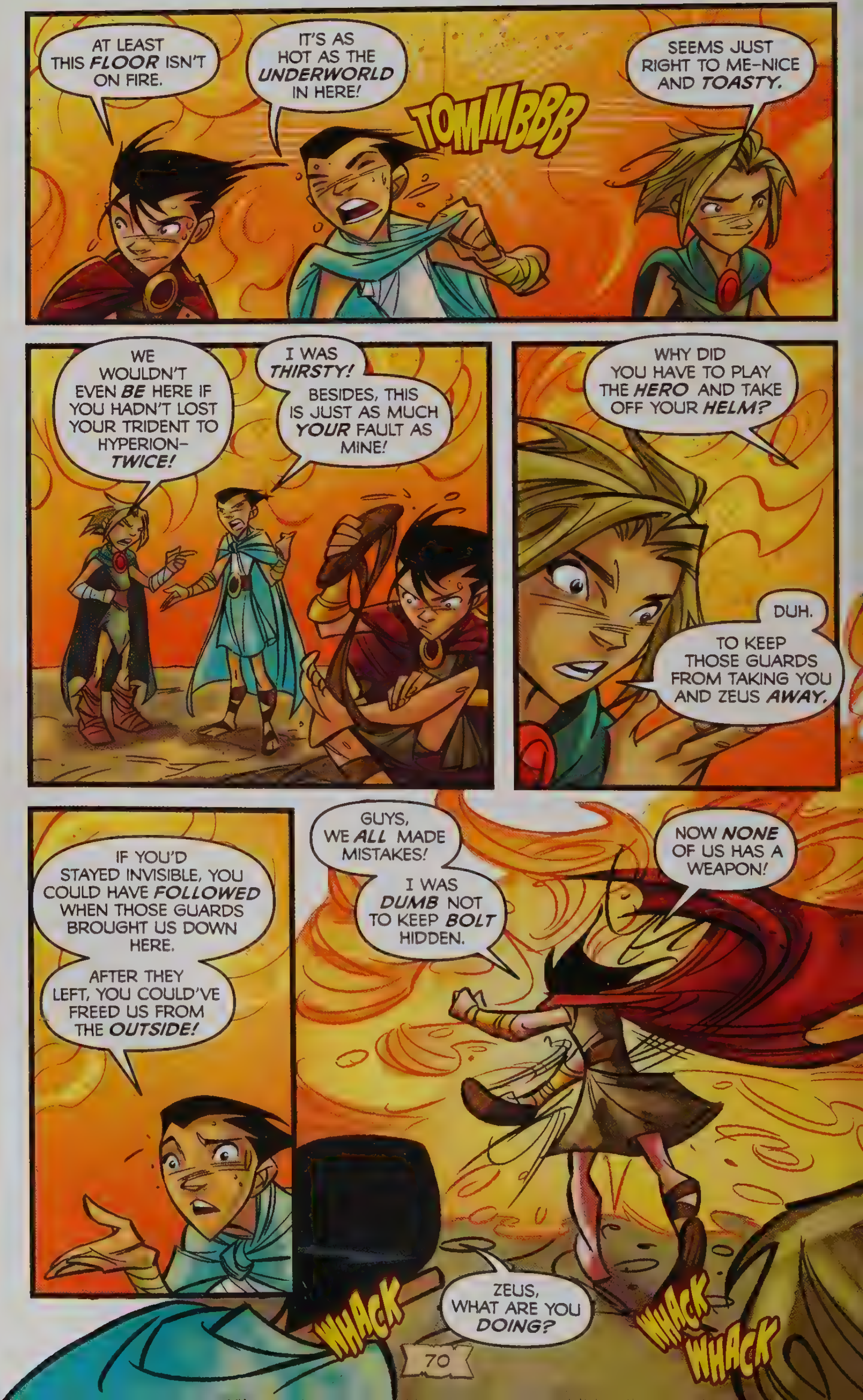

NOW I HAVE *THIS* MAGICAL OBJECT TO ADD TO HIS COLLECTION TOO.
AND ONCE I HAVE THE *TORCH,* I'LL DELIVER *EVERYTHING* TO KING CRONUS!
HMMM.
STUCK.
BZZZT!
ZEUS REALIZES THAT *BOLT* CAN'T BE FREED FROM ANY KIND OF STONE WITHOUT HIS *HELP!*
URGH
A SLIVER OF *HOPE!*
NOT *STRONG* ENOUGH FOR THE JOB?
WHAT'S THE *MATTER,* YOUR BRILLIANCE?
MAYBE YOU NEED TO START DOING *PUSH-UPS!*
UUMMPH!
YOU LOOK TOO TIRED AND WEAK TO TOSS A *FIREBALL...*
...ARE YOU GETTING ENOUGH *SLEEP?*
BZZZT!

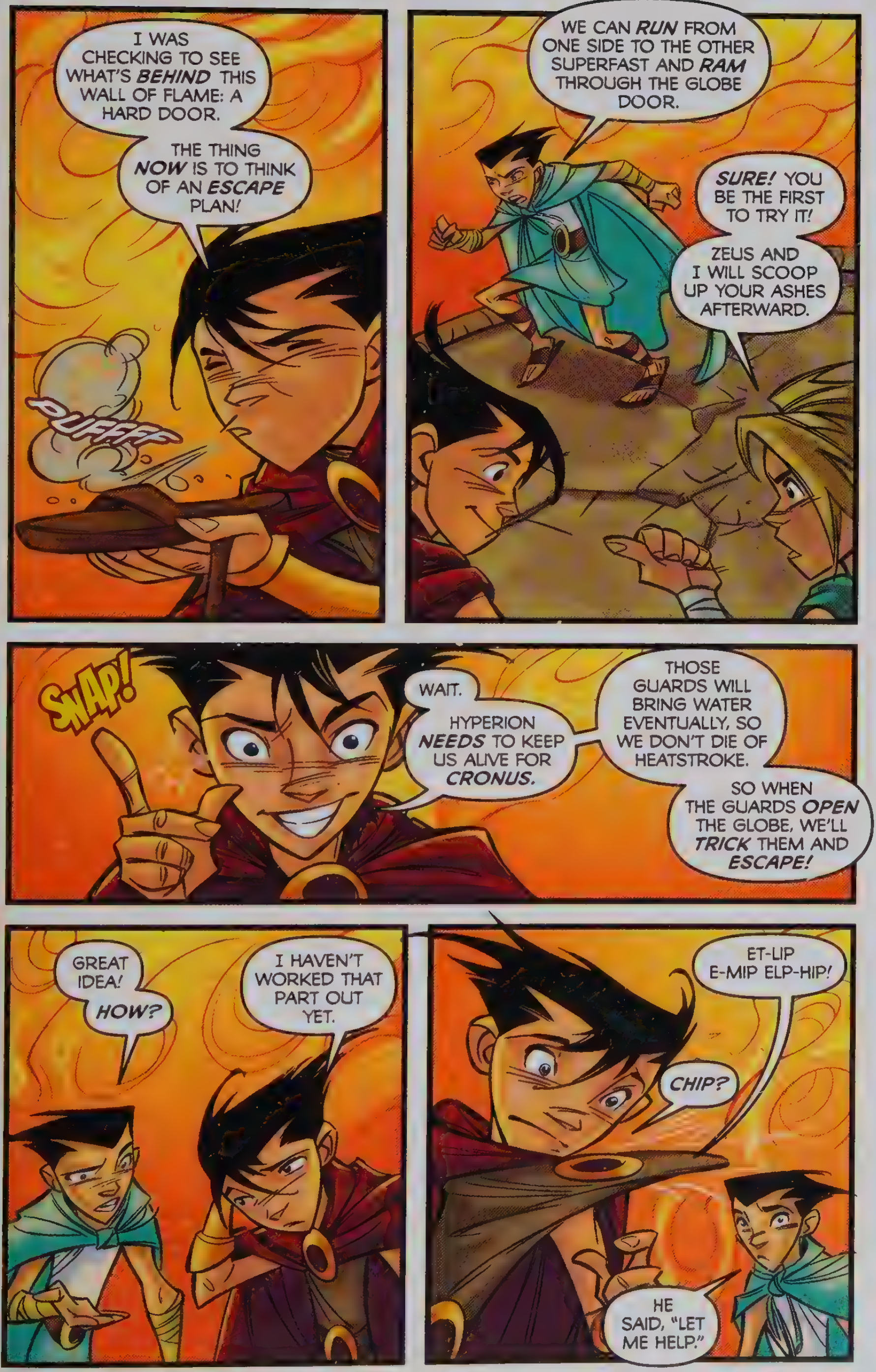

QUITE ENOUGH!
GUARDS, TAKE THOSE BRATS TO THE GLOBE OF DESTRUCTION!
GLADLY!
DON'T EVEN THINK OF TRYING TO RUN FOR IT AGAIN!
CHI-CHI-CHI-CHI
YOU CAN'T KEEP US HERE, YOU GLOWWORM!
WE'RE OLYMPIANS!
OLYMPIANS, SCHMOLYMPIANS.
YOU'RE A BIT ON THE SCRAWNY SIDE FOR MY TASTES...
SSSSS
HEY! LET GO!
...BUT OLYMPIANS ARE THE KING'S FAVORITE SNACK.
TAKE THEM AWAY!
OOOMPH!
KA-LUMMPH
GET MOVING!
DOWN THE STAIRS!
DOOOM

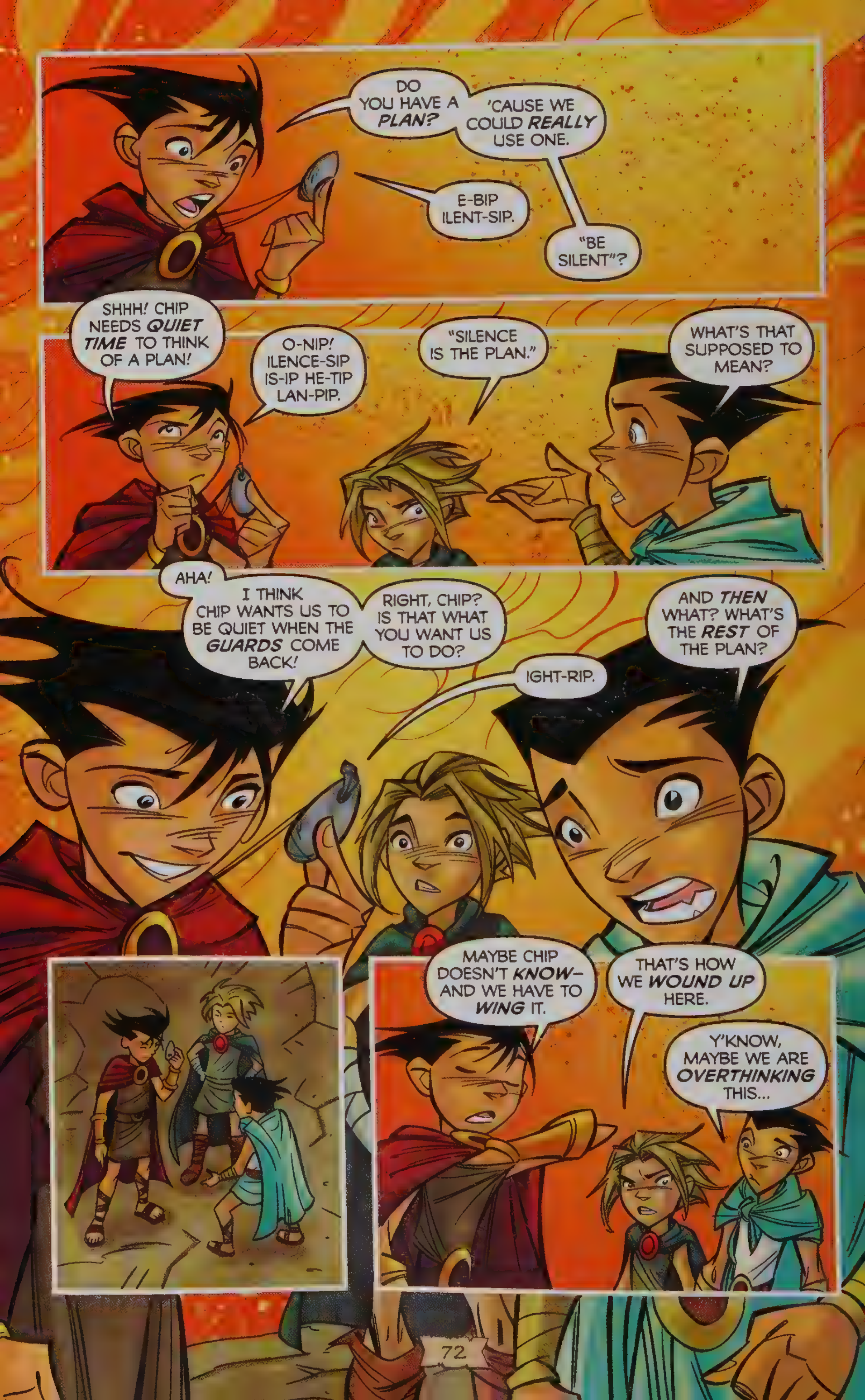

GAHHHH!
THE GLOBE OF DESTRUCTION?
THAT'S IT, BOYS!
NO NONONO NO.
GULP!
LOOKS COZY!
WHUP!
WHUP!
WHUP!
IN YOU GO!
POP!
WAIT– WHAT?

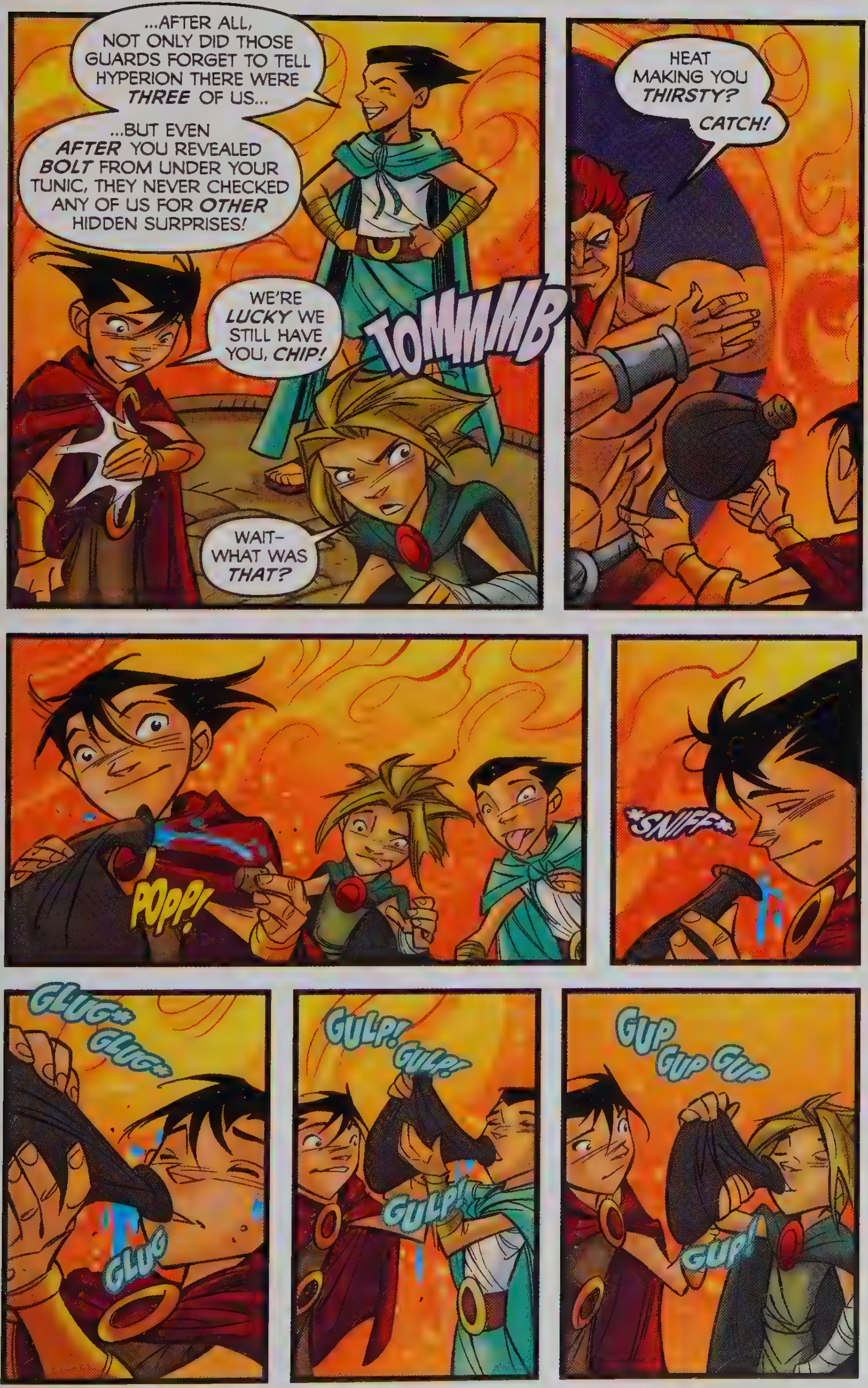
CHAPTER SEVEN:
GLOBAL WARMING

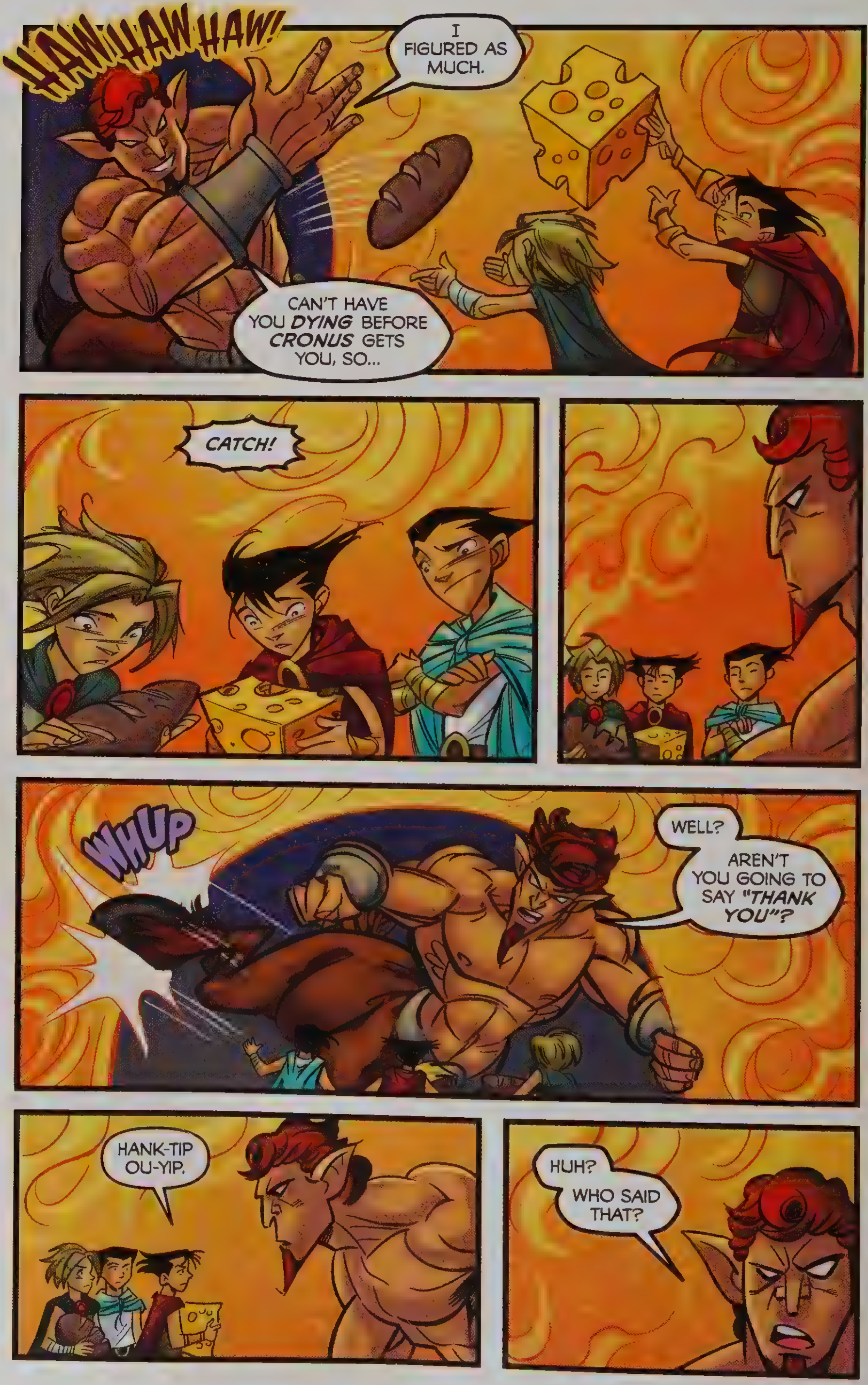

THE BLAST OF *HEAT* FROM THE FLAMING SPHERE IS INTENSE.
EVEN THE AIR ZEUS BREATHES IN BURNS HIS LUNGS.
WELCOME TO YOUR NEW HOME!
FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIVES!
SHOVE!
OR UNTIL CRONUS DECIDES WHAT TO DOODLE-DO ABOUT HIS LUNCH!
HEY, *MANNERS!*

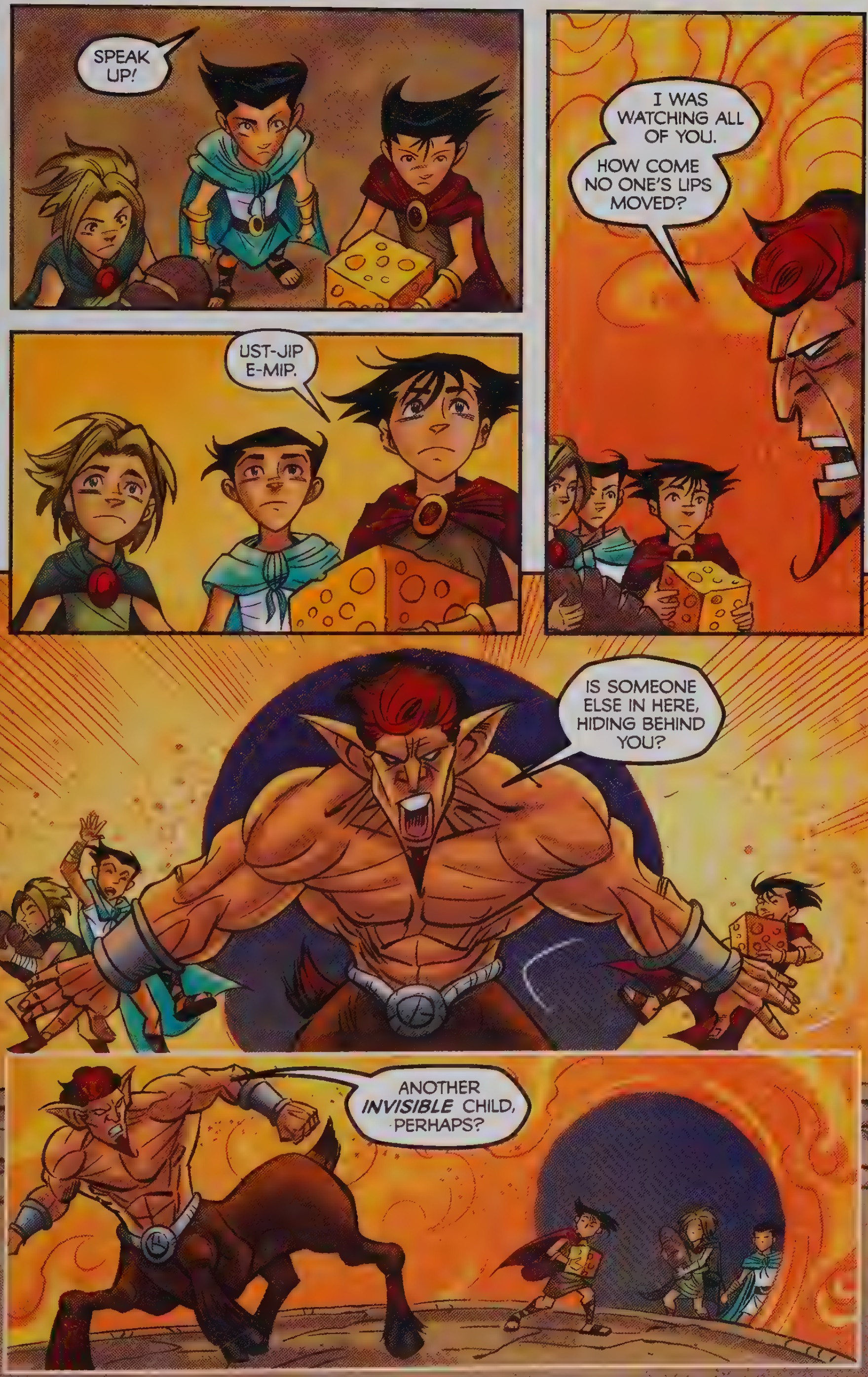

AT LEAST THIS *FLOOR* ISN'T ON FIRE.
IT'S AS HOT AS THE *UNDERWORLD* IN HERE!
TOMMBBB
SEEMS JUST RIGHT TO ME—NICE AND *TOASTY.*
WE WOULDN'T EVEN *BE* HERE IF YOU HADN'T LOST YOUR TRIDENT TO HYPERION—*TWICE!*
I WAS *THIRSTY!*
BESIDES, THIS IS JUST AS MUCH *YOUR* FAULT AS MINE!
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO PLAY THE *HERO* AND TAKE OFF YOUR *HELM?*
DUH.
TO KEEP THOSE GUARDS FROM TAKING YOU AND ZEUS *AWAY.*
IF YOU'D STAYED INVISIBLE, YOU COULD HAVE *FOLLOWED* WHEN THOSE GUARDS BROUGHT US DOWN HERE.
AFTER THEY LEFT, YOU COULD'VE FREED US FROM THE *OUTSIDE!*
GUYS, WE *ALL* MADE MISTAKES!
I WAS *DUMB* NOT TO KEEP *BOLT* HIDDEN.
NOW *NONE* OF US HAS A WEAPON!
WHACK
ZEUS, WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?*
WHACK
WHACK

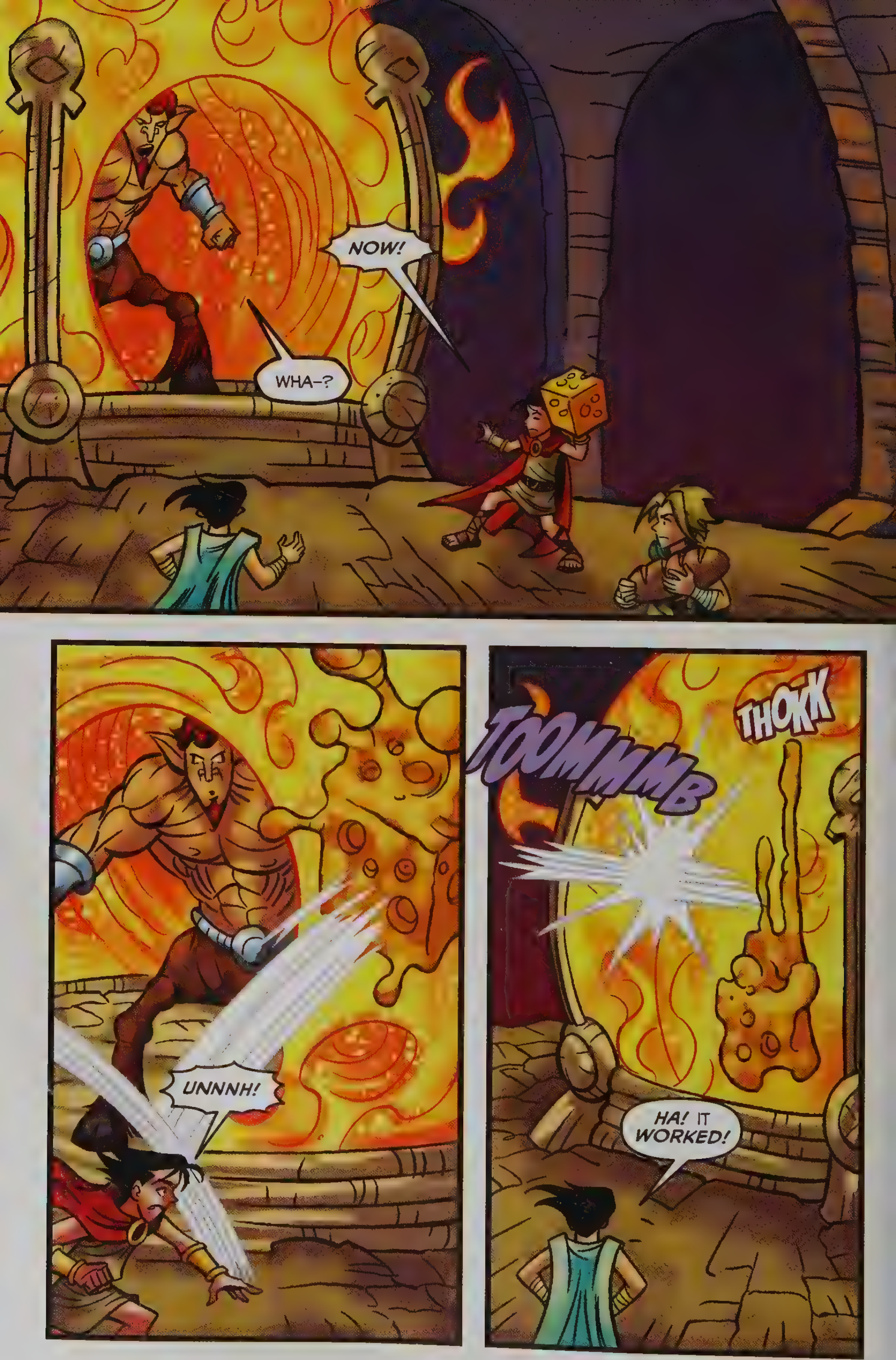

I WAS CHECKING TO SEE WHAT'S *BEHIND* THIS WALL OF FLAME: A HARD DOOR.
THE THING *NOW* IS TO THINK OF AN *ESCAPE* PLAN!
PUFFF
WE CAN *RUN* FROM ONE SIDE TO THE OTHER SUPERFAST AND *RAM* THROUGH THE GLOBE DOOR.
SURE! YOU BE THE FIRST TO TRY IT!
ZEUS AND I WILL SCOOP UP YOUR ASHES AFTERWARD.
SNAP!
WAIT.
HYPERION *NEEDS* TO KEEP US ALIVE FOR *CRONUS.*
THOSE GUARDS WILL BRING WATER EVENTUALLY, SO WE DON'T DIE OF HEATSTROKE.
SO WHEN THE GUARDS *OPEN* THE GLOBE, WE'LL *TRICK* THEM AND *ESCAPE!*
GREAT IDEA!
HOW?
I HAVEN'T WORKED THAT PART OUT YET.
ET-LIP E-MIP ELP-HIP!
CHIP?
HE SAID, "LET ME HELP."

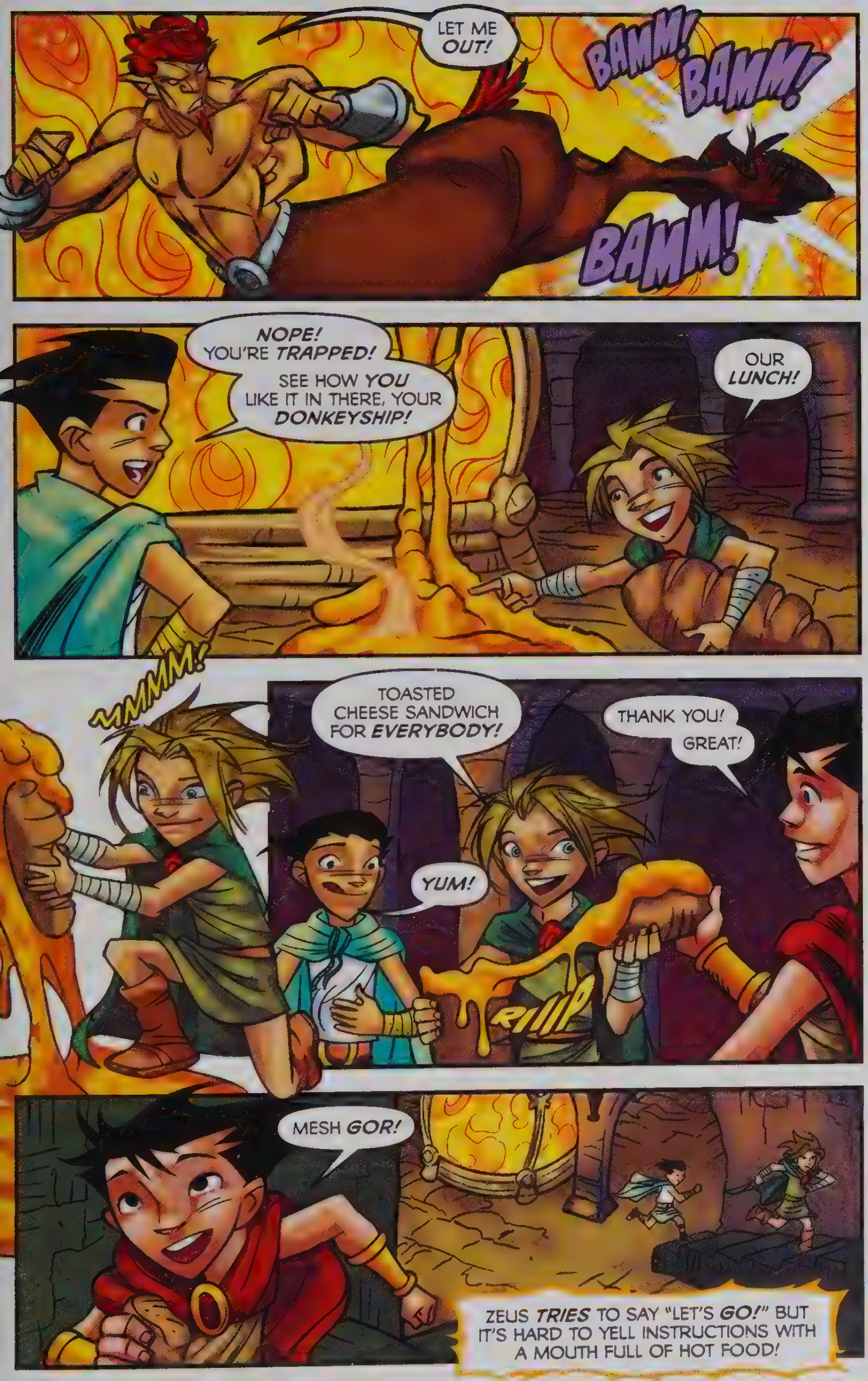

DO YOU HAVE A *PLAN?*
'CAUSE WE COULD *REALLY* USE ONE.
E-BIP ILENT-SIP.
"BE SILENT"?
SHHH! CHIP NEEDS *QUIET TIME* TO THINK OF A PLAN!
O-NIP! ILENCE-SIP IS-IP HE-TIP LAN-PIP.
"SILENCE IS THE PLAN."
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
AHA!
I THINK CHIP WANTS US TO BE QUIET WHEN THE *GUARDS* COME BACK!
RIGHT, CHIP? IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT US TO DO?
IGHT-RIP.
AND *THEN* WHAT? WHAT'S THE *REST* OF THE PLAN?
MAYBE CHIP DOESN'T *KNOW*— AND WE HAVE TO *WING* IT.
THAT'S HOW WE *WOUND UP* HERE.
Y'KNOW, MAYBE WE ARE *OVERTHINKING* THIS...

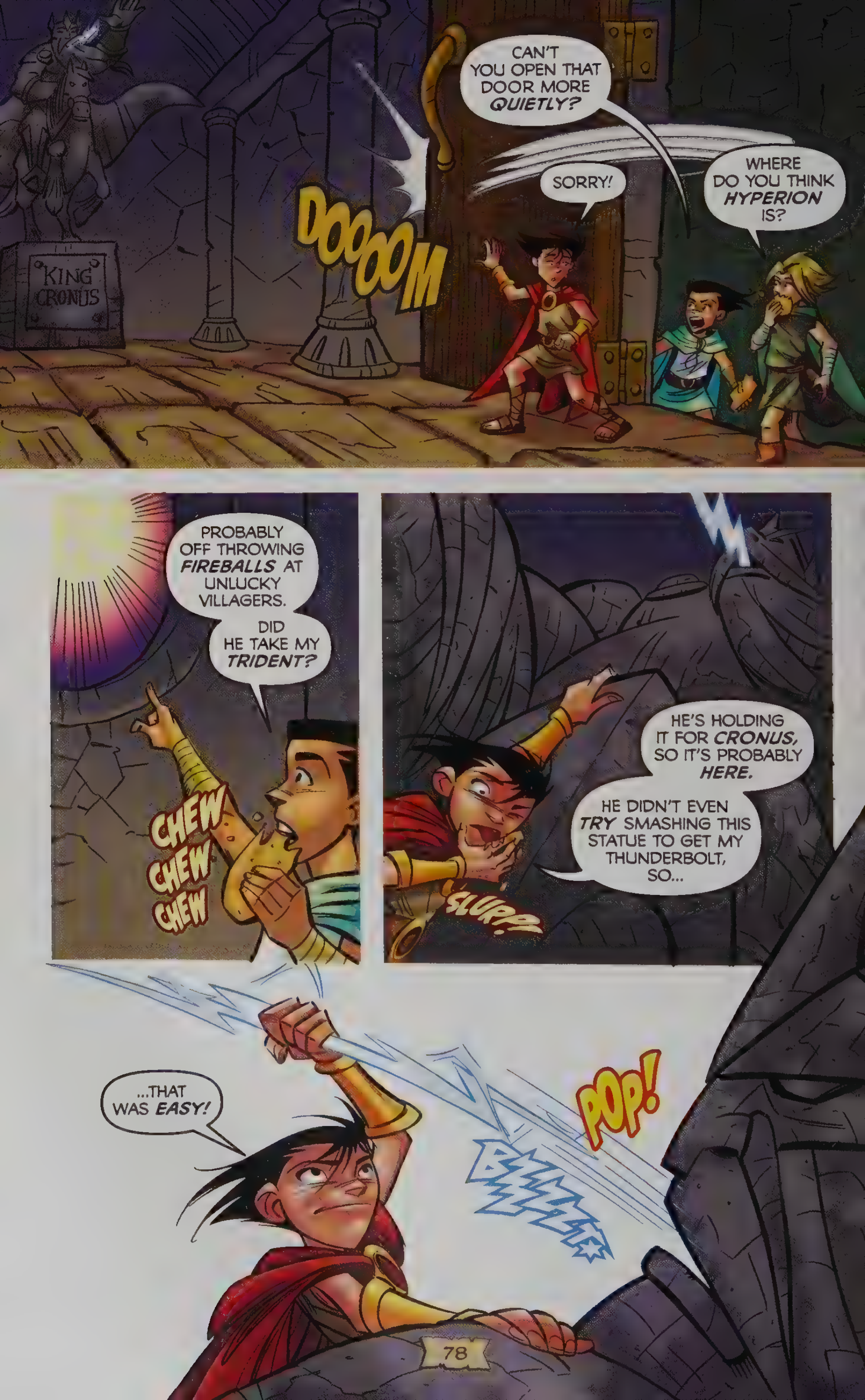

...AFTER ALL, NOT ONLY DID THOSE GUARDS FORGET TO TELL HYPERION THERE WERE *THREE* OF US...
...BUT EVEN *AFTER* YOU REVEALED *BOLT* FROM UNDER YOUR TUNIC, THEY NEVER CHECKED ANY OF US FOR *OTHER* HIDDEN SURPRISES!
WE'RE *LUCKY* WE STILL HAVE YOU, *CHIP!*
TOMMMB
WAIT– WHAT WAS *THAT?*
HEAT MAKING YOU *THIRSTY?*
CATCH!
POPP!
SNIFF
GLUG* GLUG*
GLUG
GULP! GULP!
GULP!
GUP GUP GUP
GUP!

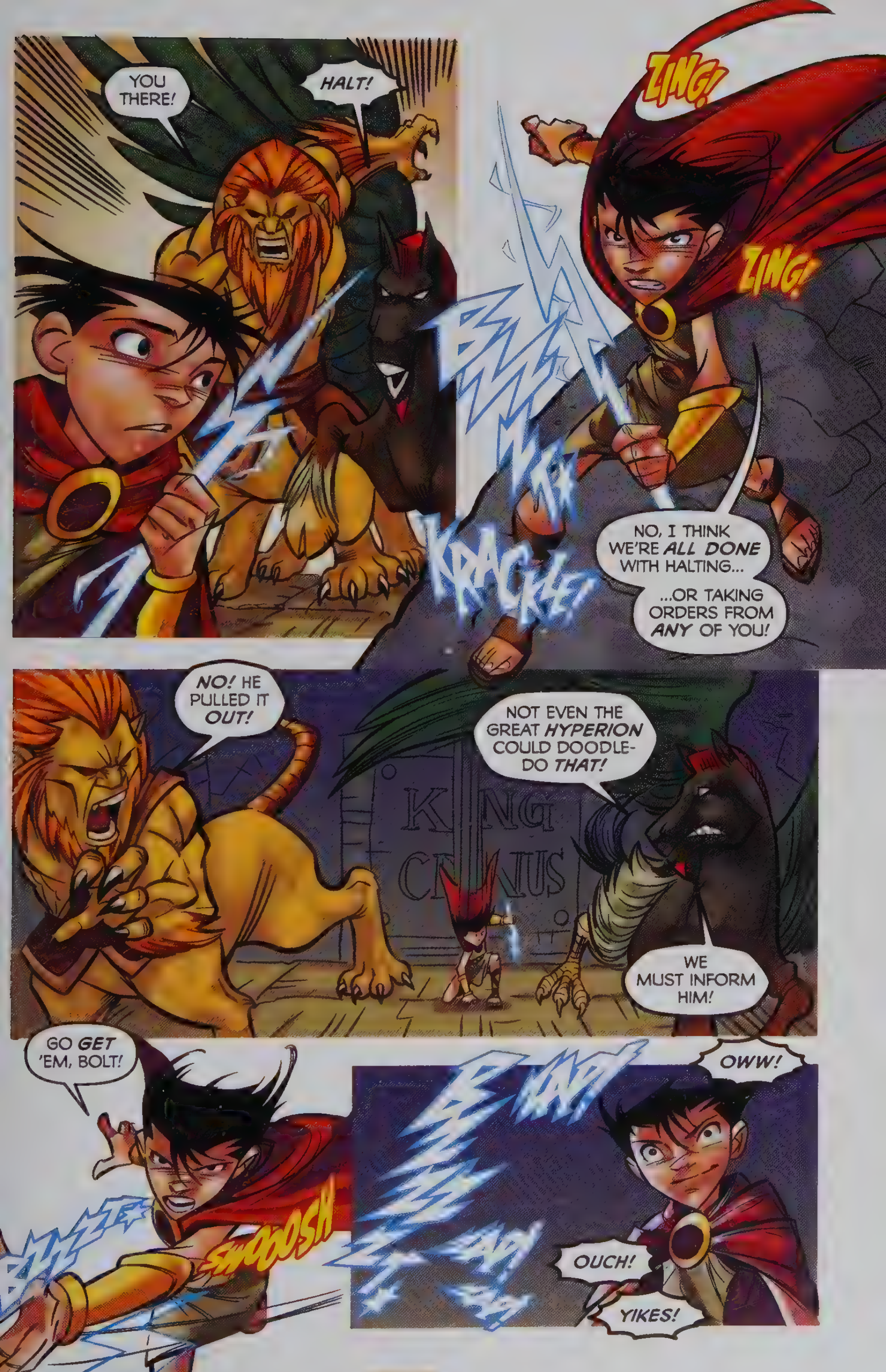

HAW! HAW! HAW!
I FIGURED AS MUCH.
CAN'T HAVE YOU *DYING* BEFORE *CRONUS* GETS YOU, SO...
CATCH!
WHUP
WELL?
AREN'T YOU GOING TO SAY *"THANK YOU"?*
HANK-TIP OU-YIP.
HUH?
WHO SAID THAT?


SPEAK UP!
UST-JIP E-MIP.
I WAS WATCHING ALL OF YOU.
HOW COME NO ONE'S LIPS MOVED?
IS SOMEONE ELSE IN HERE, HIDING BEHIND YOU?
ANOTHER *INVISIBLE* CHILD, PERHAPS?

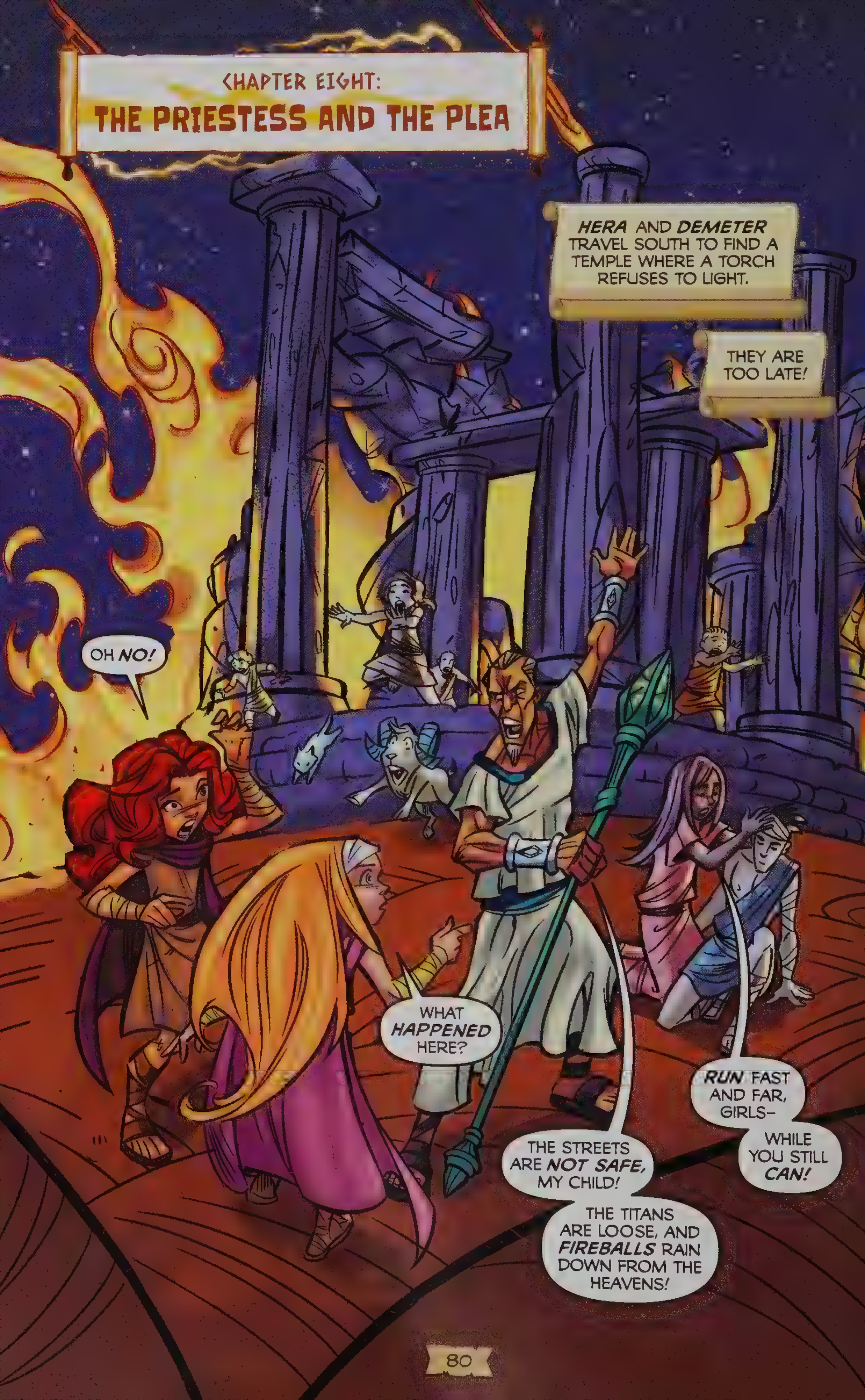

NOW!
WHA-?
UNNNH!
TOOMMMMB
THOKK
HA! IT WORKED!

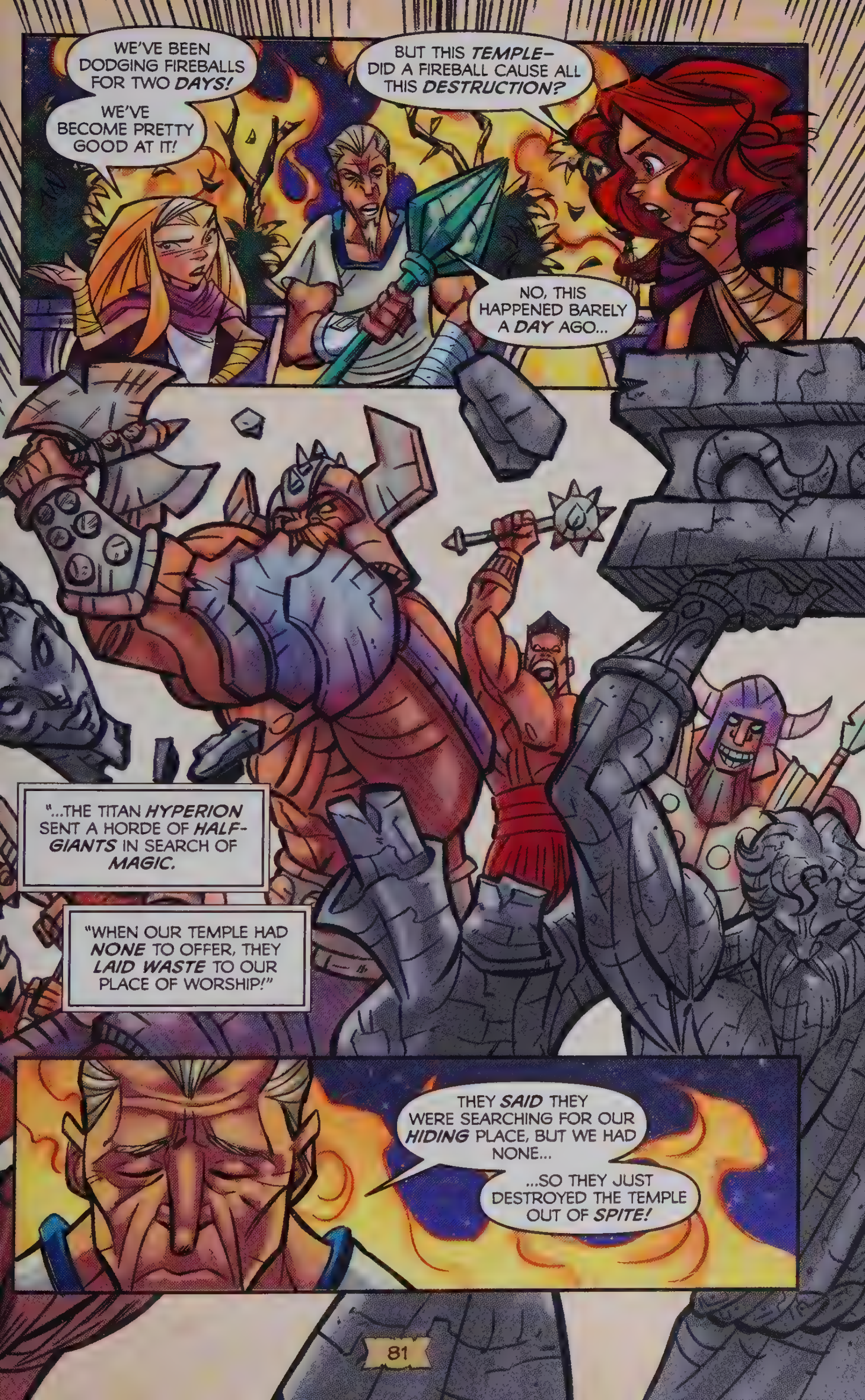

LET ME OUT!
BAMM! BAMM!
BAMM!
NOPE! YOU'RE TRAPPED!
SEE HOW YOU LIKE IT IN THERE, YOUR DONKEYSHIP!
OUR LUNCH!
MMMM!
TOASTED CHEESE SANDWICH FOR EVERYBODY!
THANK YOU!
GREAT!
YUM!
RIIIP
MESH GOR!
ZEUS TRIES TO SAY "LET'S GO!" BUT IT'S HARD TO YELL INSTRUCTIONS WITH A MOUTH FULL OF HOT FOOD!

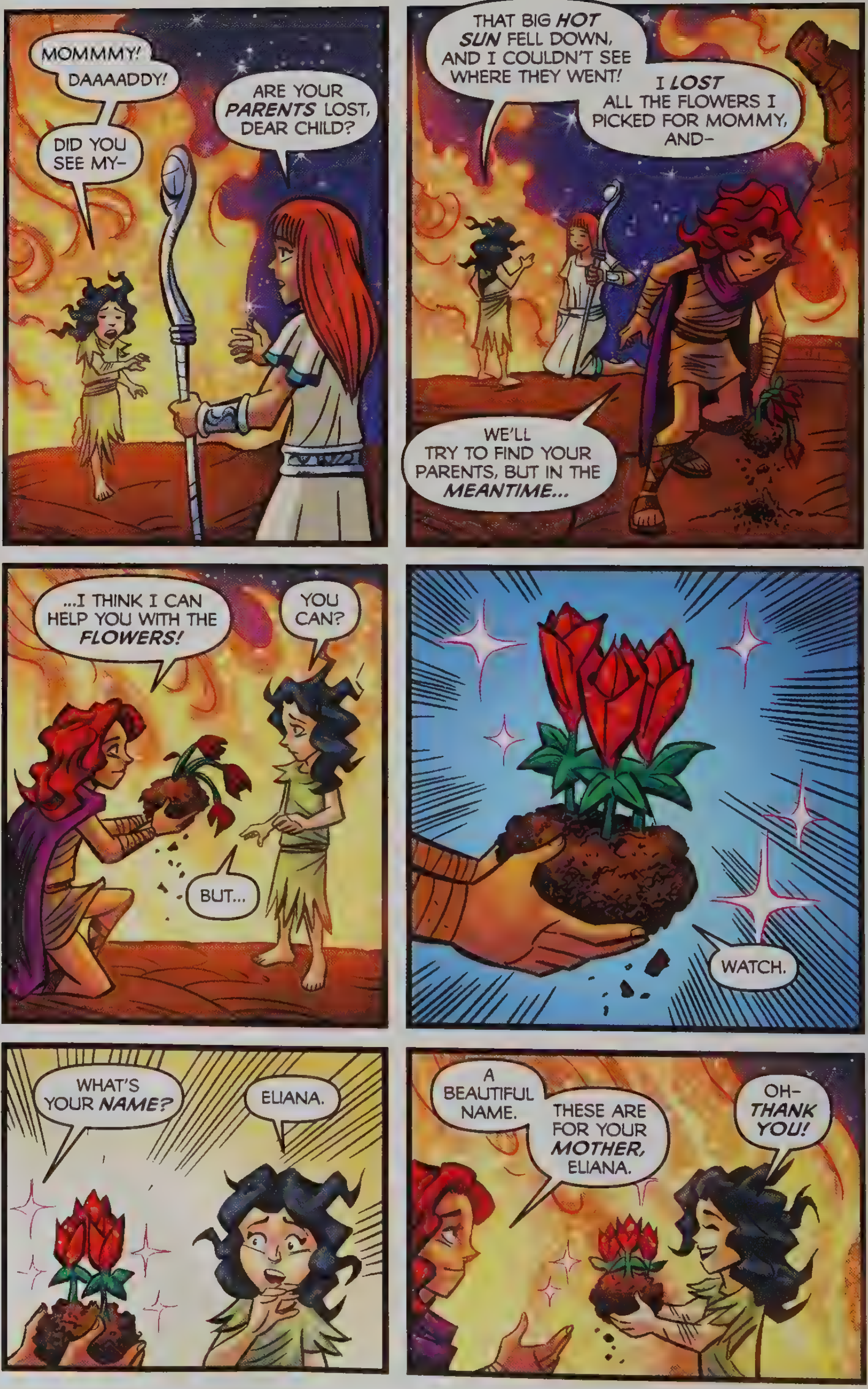

KING CRONUS
DOOOOM
CAN'T YOU OPEN THAT DOOR MORE *QUIETLY?*
SORRY!
WHERE DO YOU THINK *HYPERION* IS?
PROBABLY OFF THROWING *FIREBALLS* AT UNLUCKY VILLAGERS.
DID HE TAKE MY *TRIDENT?*
CHEW CHEW CHEW
HE'S HOLDING IT FOR *CRONUS,* SO IT'S PROBABLY *HERE.*
HE DIDN'T EVEN *TRY* SMASHING THIS STATUE TO GET MY THUNDERBOLT, SO...
SLURP!
POP!
BZZZT
...THAT WAS *EASY!*

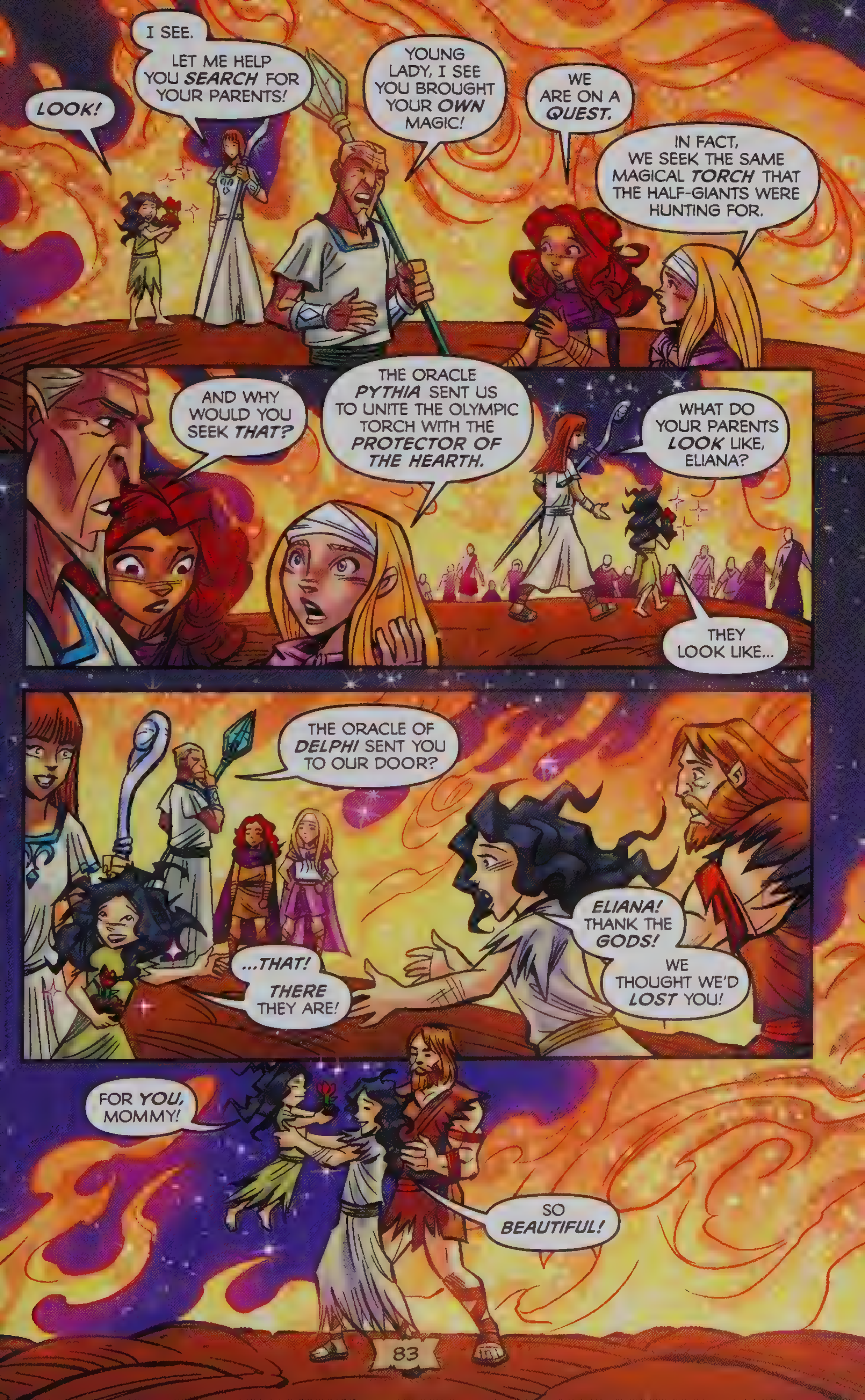

YOU THERE!
HALT!
ZING!
ZING!
KRACKLE!
NO, I THINK WE'RE *ALL DONE* WITH HALTING...
...OR TAKING ORDERS FROM *ANY* OF YOU!
NO! HE PULLED IT *OUT!*
NOT EVEN THE GREAT *HYPERION* COULD DOODLE-DO *THAT!*
WE MUST INFORM HIM!
GO *GET* 'EM, BOLT!
SWOOOSH
OWW!
OUCH!
YIKES!

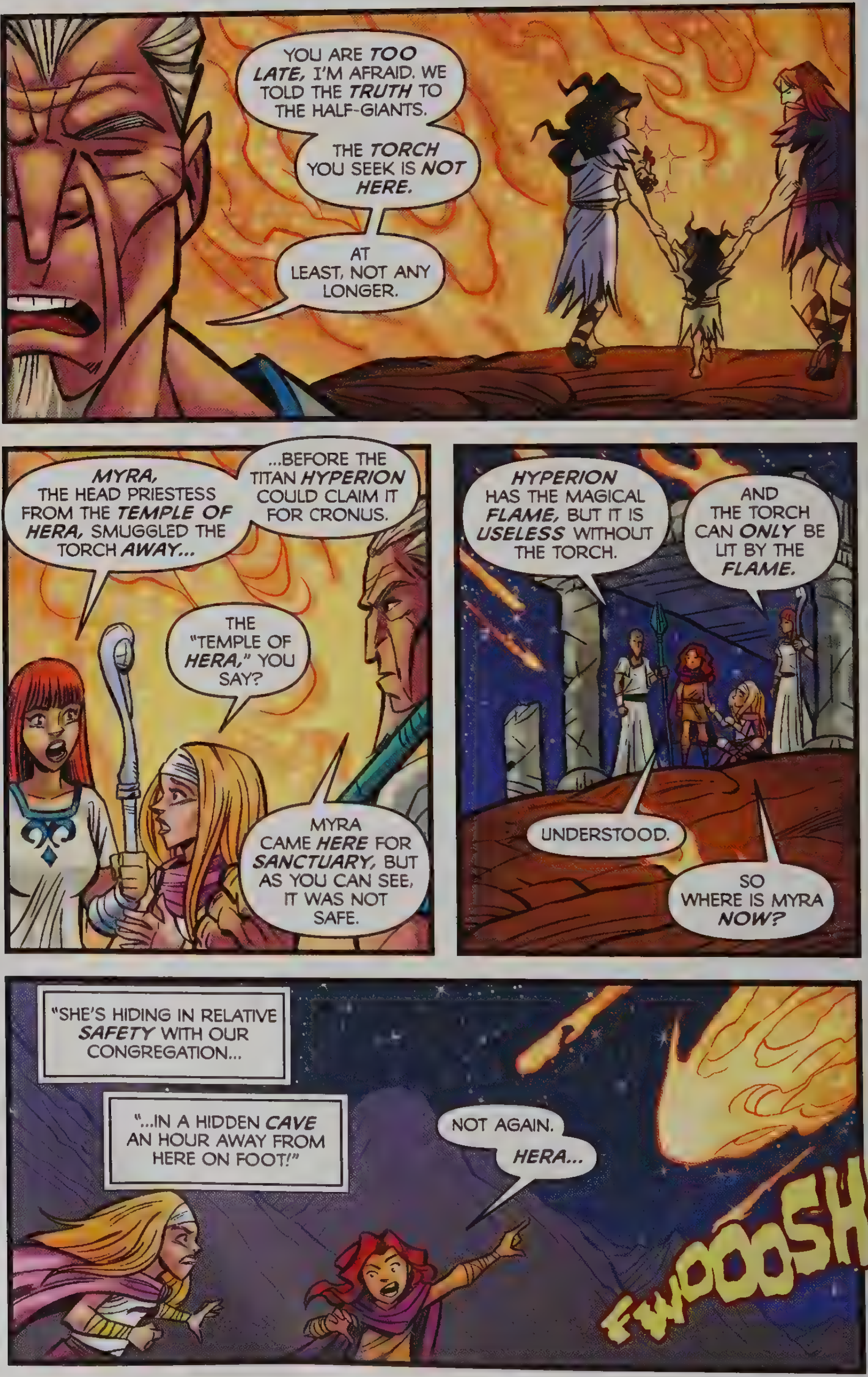
CHAPTER EIGHT:
THE PRIESTESS AND THE PLEA

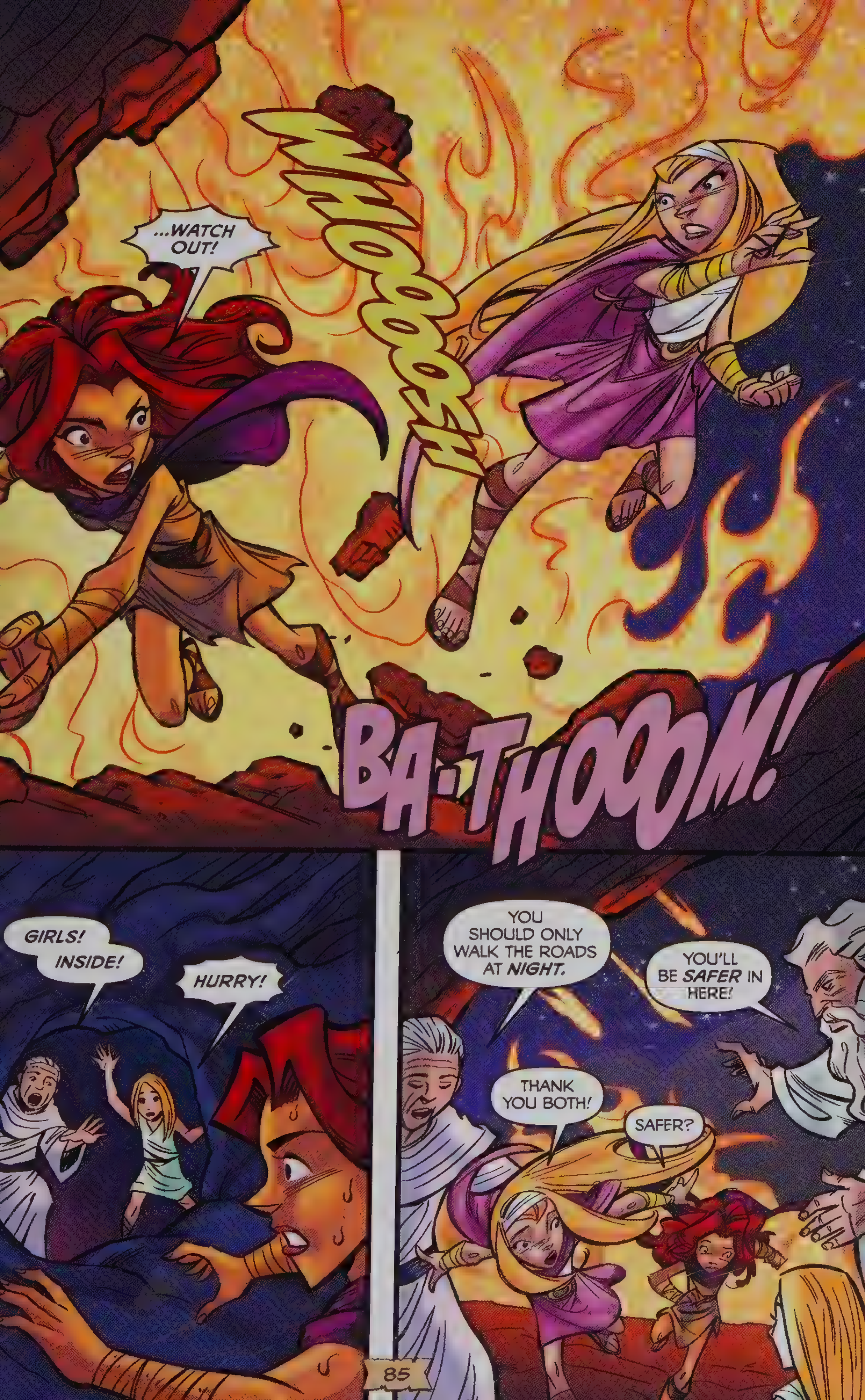

HERA AND DEMETER TRAVEL SOUTH TO FIND A TEMPLE WHERE A TORCH REFUSES TO LIGHT.
THEY ARE TOO LATE!
OH NO!
WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
THE STREETS ARE NOT SAFE, MY CHILD!
THE TITANS ARE LOOSE, AND FIREBALLS RAIN DOWN FROM THE HEAVENS!
RUN FAST AND FAR, GIRLS–
WHILE YOU STILL CAN!

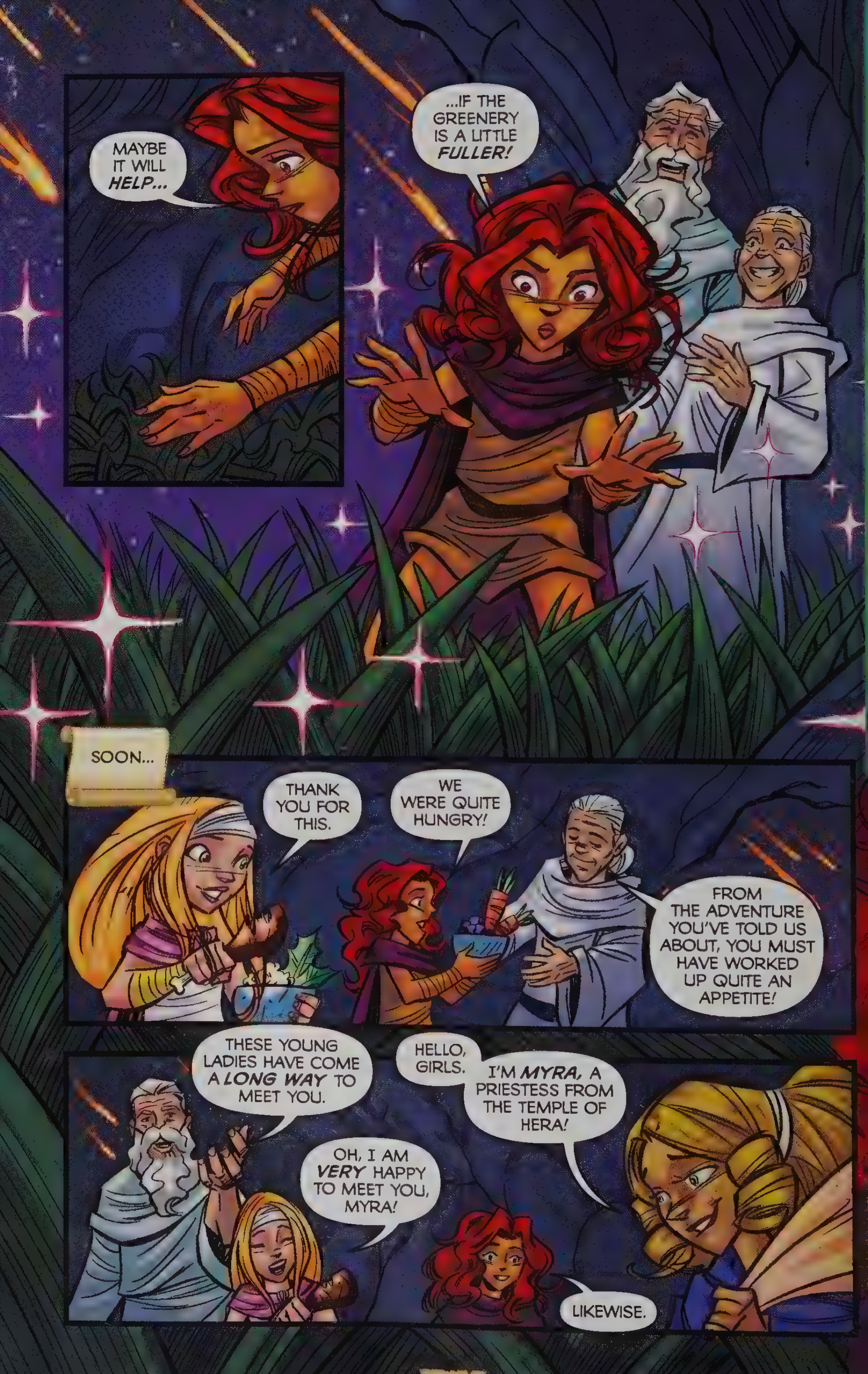

WE'VE BEEN DODGING FIREBALLS FOR TWO *DAYS!*
WE'VE BECOME PRETTY GOOD AT IT!
BUT THIS *TEMPLE*– DID A FIREBALL CAUSE ALL THIS *DESTRUCTION?*
NO, THIS HAPPENED BARELY A *DAY* AGO...
"...THE TITAN *HYPERION* SENT A HORDE OF *HALF-GIANTS* IN SEARCH OF *MAGIC.*
"WHEN OUR TEMPLE HAD *NONE* TO OFFER, THEY *LAID WASTE* TO OUR PLACE OF WORSHIP!"
THEY *SAID* THEY WERE SEARCHING FOR OUR *HIDING* PLACE, BUT WE HAD NONE...
...SO THEY JUST DESTROYED THE TEMPLE OUT OF *SPITE!*

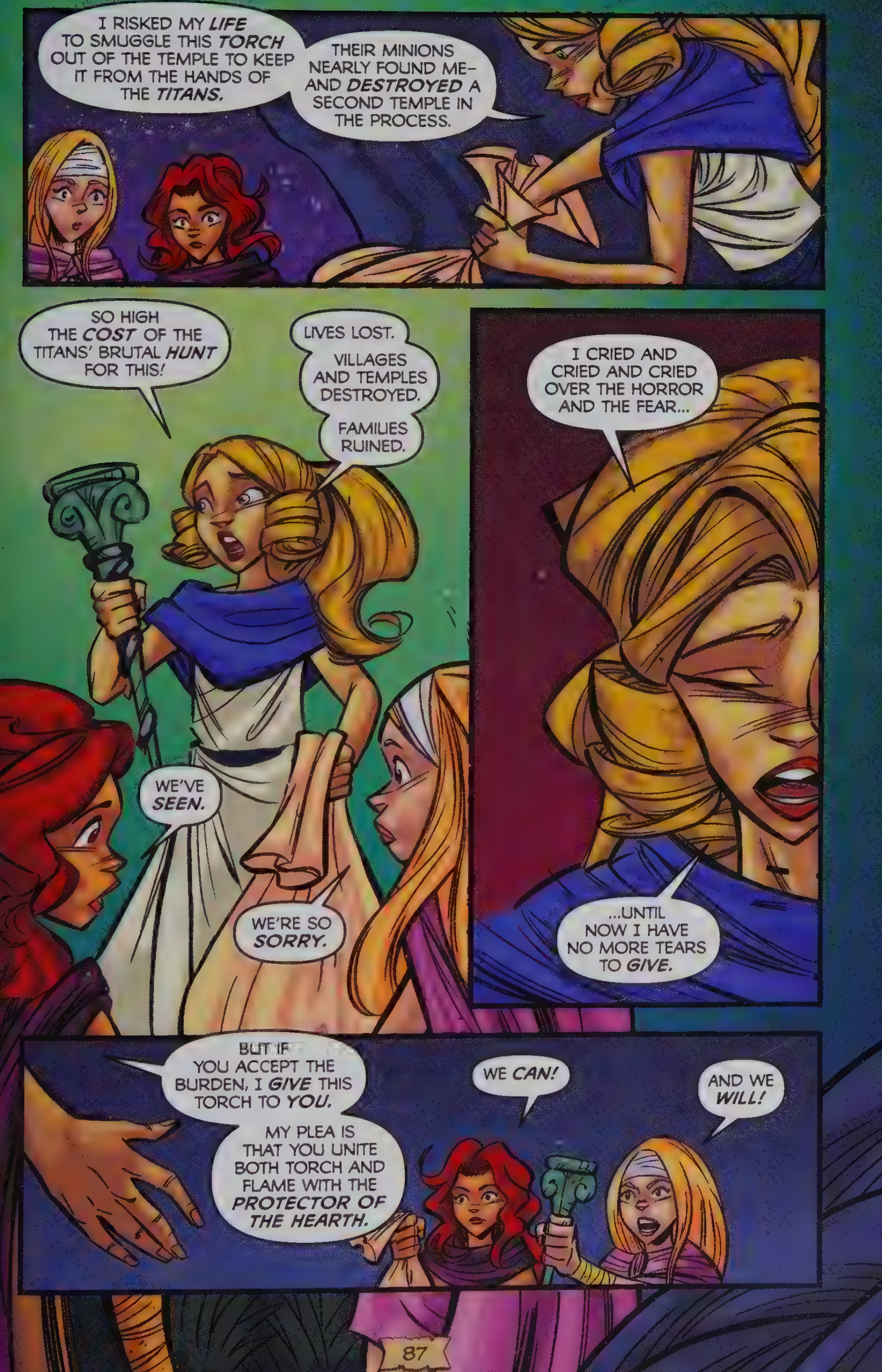

MOMMMY!
DAAAADDY!
DID YOU SEE MY–
ARE YOUR PARENTS LOST, DEAR CHILD?
THAT BIG HOT SUN FELL DOWN, AND I COULDN'T SEE WHERE THEY WENT!
I LOST ALL THE FLOWERS I PICKED FOR MOMMY, AND–
WE'LL TRY TO FIND YOUR PARENTS, BUT IN THE MEANTIME...
...I THINK I CAN HELP YOU WITH THE FLOWERS!
YOU CAN?
BUT...
WATCH.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
ELIANA.
A BEAUTIFUL NAME.
THESE ARE FOR YOUR MOTHER, ELIANA.
OH– THANK YOU!

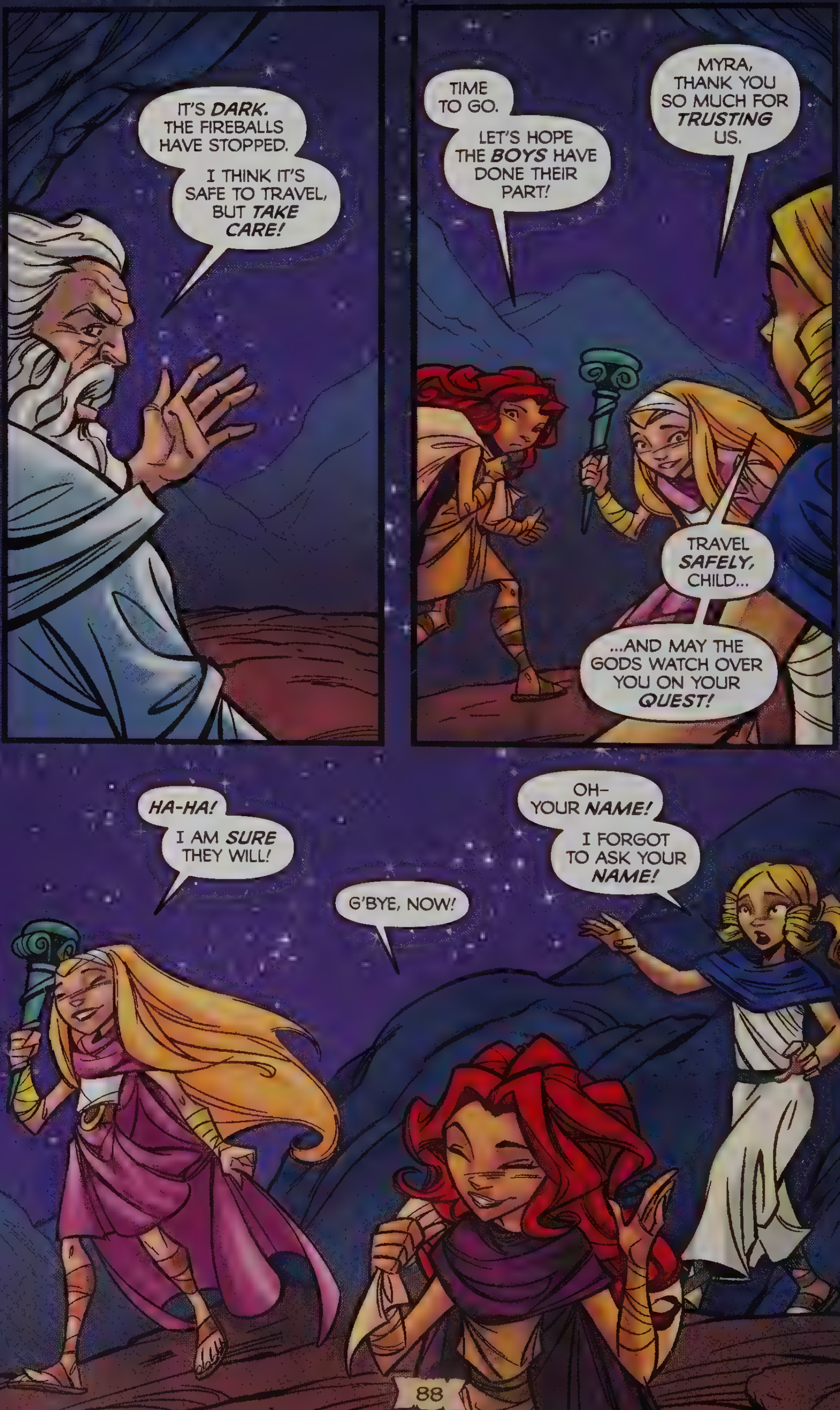

LOOK!
I SEE.
LET ME HELP YOU *SEARCH* FOR YOUR PARENTS!
YOUNG LADY, I SEE YOU BROUGHT YOUR *OWN* MAGIC!
WE ARE ON A *QUEST.*
IN FACT, WE SEEK THE SAME MAGICAL *TORCH* THAT THE HALF-GIANTS WERE HUNTING FOR.
AND WHY WOULD YOU SEEK *THAT?*
THE ORACLE *PYTHIA* SENT US TO UNITE THE OLYMPIC TORCH WITH THE *PROTECTOR OF THE HEARTH.*
WHAT DO YOUR PARENTS *LOOK* LIKE, ELIANA?
THEY LOOK LIKE...
THE ORACLE OF *DELPHI* SENT YOU TO OUR DOOR?
...THAT!
THERE THEY ARE!
ELIANA! THANK THE *GODS!*
WE THOUGHT WE'D *LOST* YOU!
FOR *YOU,* MOMMY!
SO *BEAUTIFUL!*

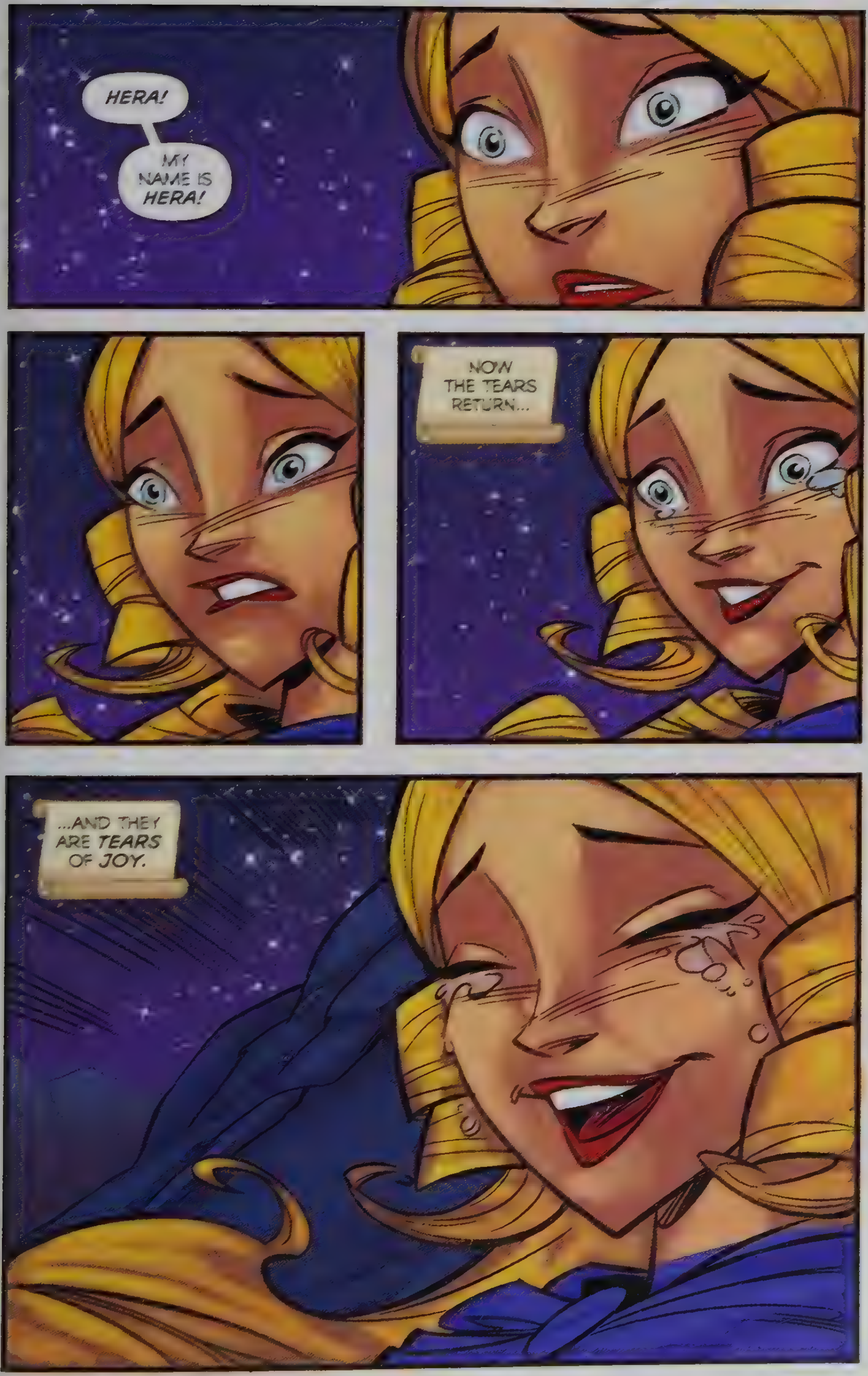

YOU ARE *TOO LATE,* I'M AFRAID. WE TOLD THE *TRUTH* TO THE HALF-GIANTS.
THE *TORCH* YOU SEEK IS *NOT HERE.*
AT LEAST, NOT ANY LONGER.
MYRA, THE HEAD PRIESTESS FROM THE *TEMPLE OF HERA,* SMUGGLED THE TORCH *AWAY...*
...BEFORE THE TITAN *HYPERION* COULD CLAIM IT FOR CRONUS.
THE "TEMPLE OF *HERA,*" YOU SAY?
MYRA CAME *HERE* FOR *SANCTUARY,* BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, IT WAS NOT SAFE.
HYPERION HAS THE MAGICAL *FLAME,* BUT IT IS *USELESS* WITHOUT THE TORCH.
AND THE TORCH CAN *ONLY* BE LIT BY THE *FLAME.*
UNDERSTOOD.
SO WHERE IS MYRA *NOW?*
"SHE'S HIDING IN RELATIVE *SAFETY* WITH OUR CONGREGATION...
"...IN A HIDDEN *CAVE* AN HOUR AWAY FROM HERE ON FOOT!"
NOT AGAIN. *HERA...*
FWOOOSH


WHOOOOOSH
...WATCH OUT!
BA-THOOOM!
GIRLS! INSIDE!
HURRY!
YOU SHOULD ONLY WALK THE ROADS AT *NIGHT.*
YOU'LL BE *SAFER* IN HERE!
THANK YOU BOTH!
SAFER?

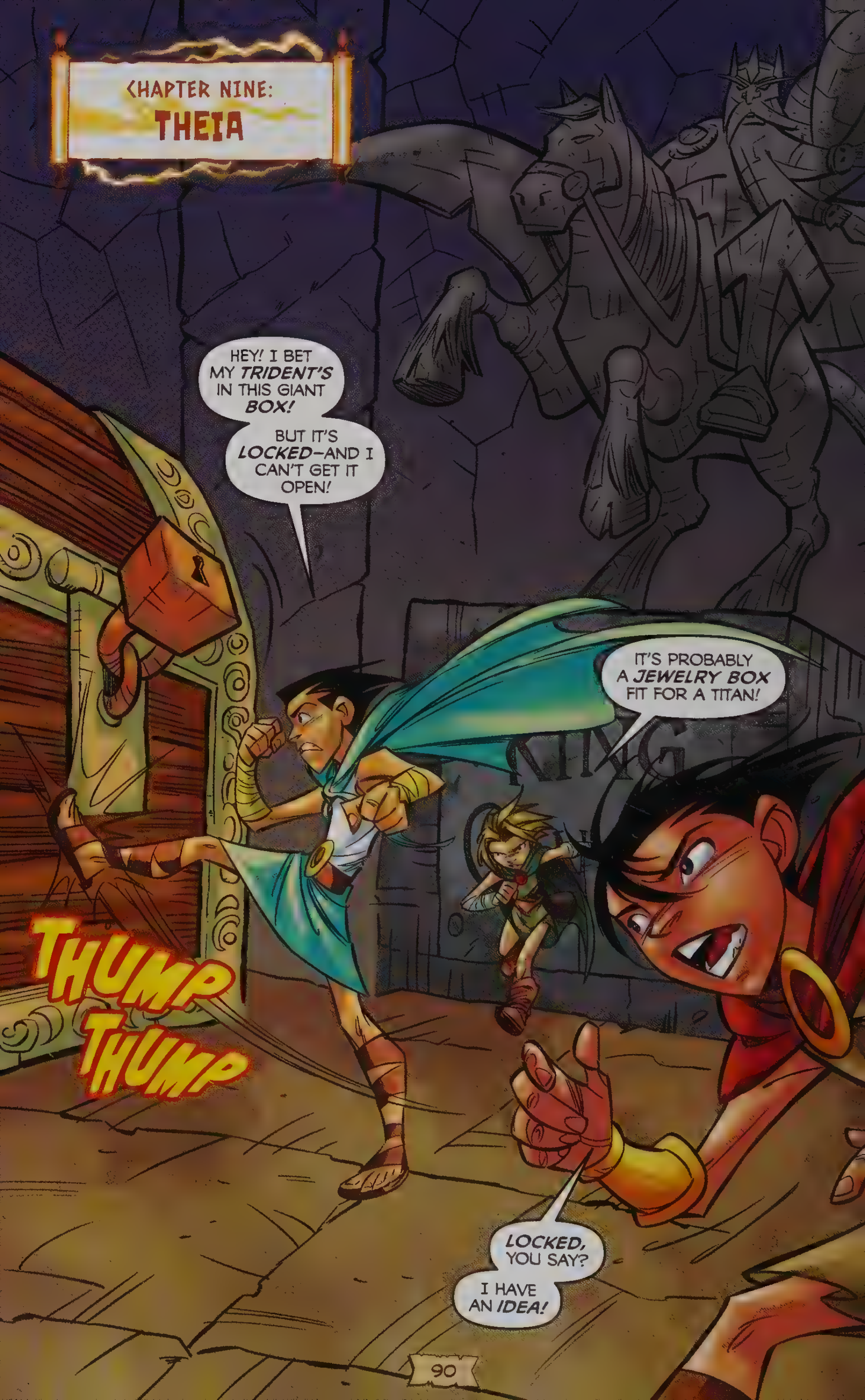

MAYBE IT WILL *HELP...*
...IF THE GREENERY IS A LITTLE *FULLER!*
SOON...
THANK YOU FOR THIS.
WE WERE QUITE HUNGRY!
FROM THE ADVENTURE YOU'VE TOLD US ABOUT, YOU MUST HAVE WORKED UP QUITE AN APPETITE!
THESE YOUNG LADIES HAVE COME A *LONG WAY* TO MEET YOU.
HELLO, GIRLS.
I'M *MYRA,* A PRIESTESS FROM THE TEMPLE OF HERA!
OH, I AM *VERY* HAPPY TO MEET YOU, MYRA!
LIKEWISE.

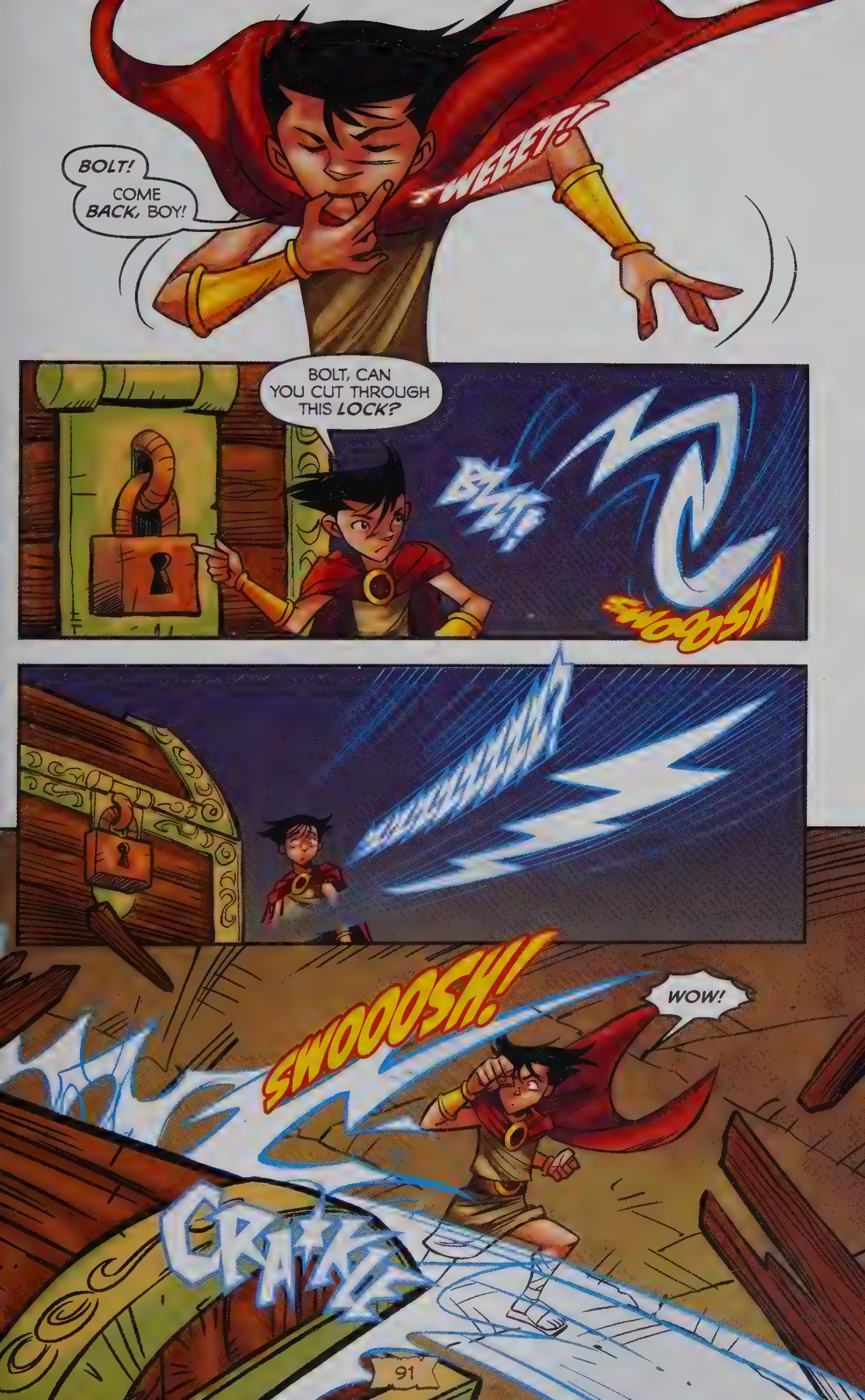

I RISKED MY *LIFE* TO SMUGGLE THIS *TORCH* OUT OF THE TEMPLE TO KEEP IT FROM THE HANDS OF THE *TITANS.*
THEIR MINIONS NEARLY FOUND ME– AND *DESTROYED* A SECOND TEMPLE IN THE PROCESS.
SO HIGH THE *COST* OF THE TITANS' BRUTAL *HUNT* FOR THIS!
LIVES LOST.
VILLAGES AND TEMPLES DESTROYED.
FAMILIES RUINED.
I CRIED AND CRIED AND CRIED OVER THE HORROR AND THE FEAR...
WE'VE *SEEN.*
WE'RE SO *SORRY.*
...UNTIL NOW I HAVE NO MORE TEARS TO *GIVE.*
BUT IF [illegible] YOU ACCEPT THE BURDEN, I *GIVE* THIS TORCH TO *YOU.*
MY PLEA IS THAT YOU UNITE BOTH TORCH AND FLAME WITH THE *PROTECTOR OF THE HEARTH.*
WE *CAN!*
AND WE *WILL!*

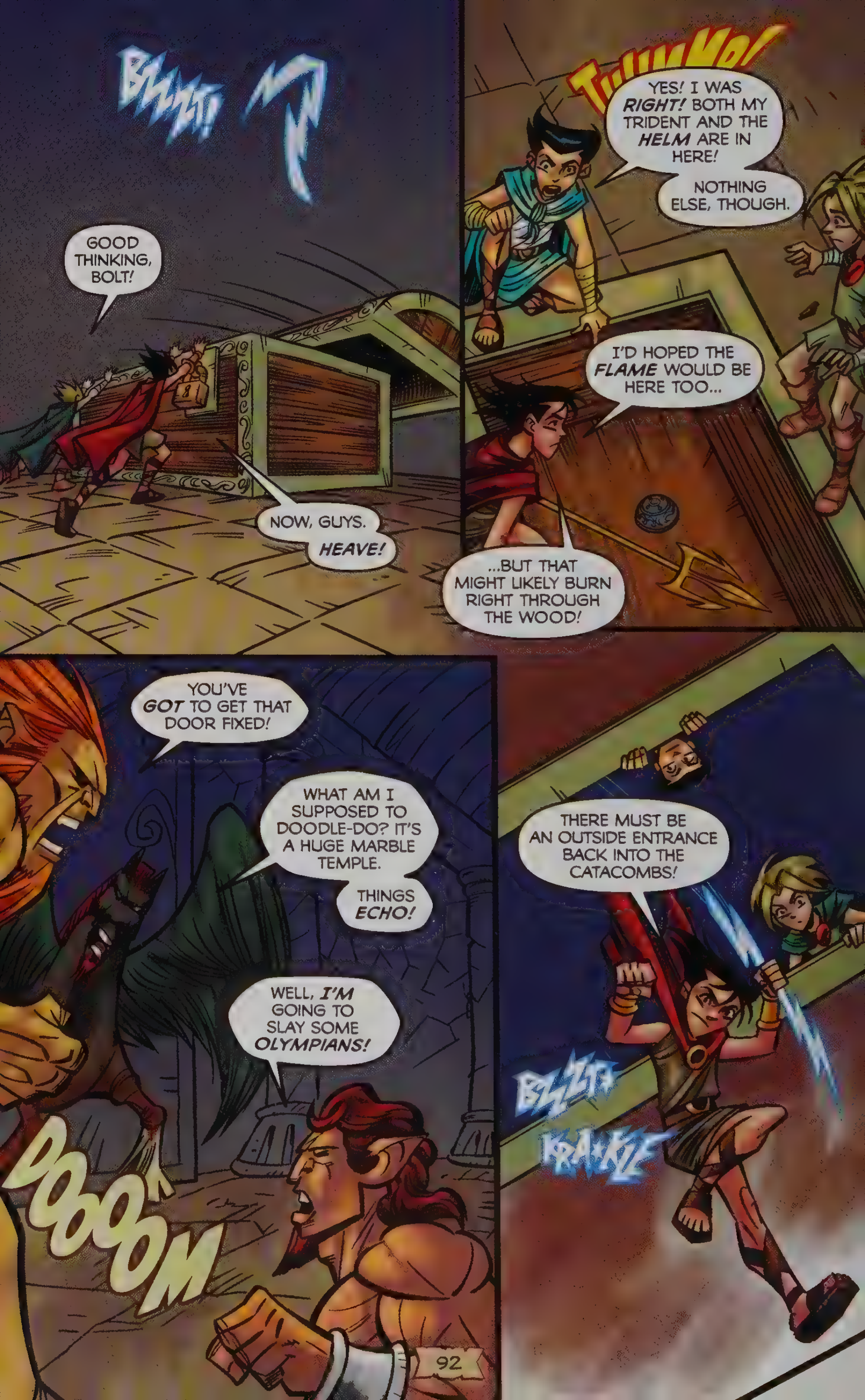

IT'S ***DARK.*** THE FIREBALLS HAVE STOPPED.
I THINK IT'S SAFE TO TRAVEL, BUT ***TAKE CARE!***
TIME TO GO.
LET'S HOPE THE ***BOYS*** HAVE DONE THEIR PART!
MYRA, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ***TRUSTING*** US.
TRAVEL ***SAFELY,*** CHILD...
...AND MAY THE GODS WATCH OVER YOU ON YOUR ***QUEST!***
HA-HA!
I AM ***SURE*** THEY WILL!
G'BYE, NOW!
OH– YOUR ***NAME!***
I FORGOT TO ASK YOUR ***NAME!***

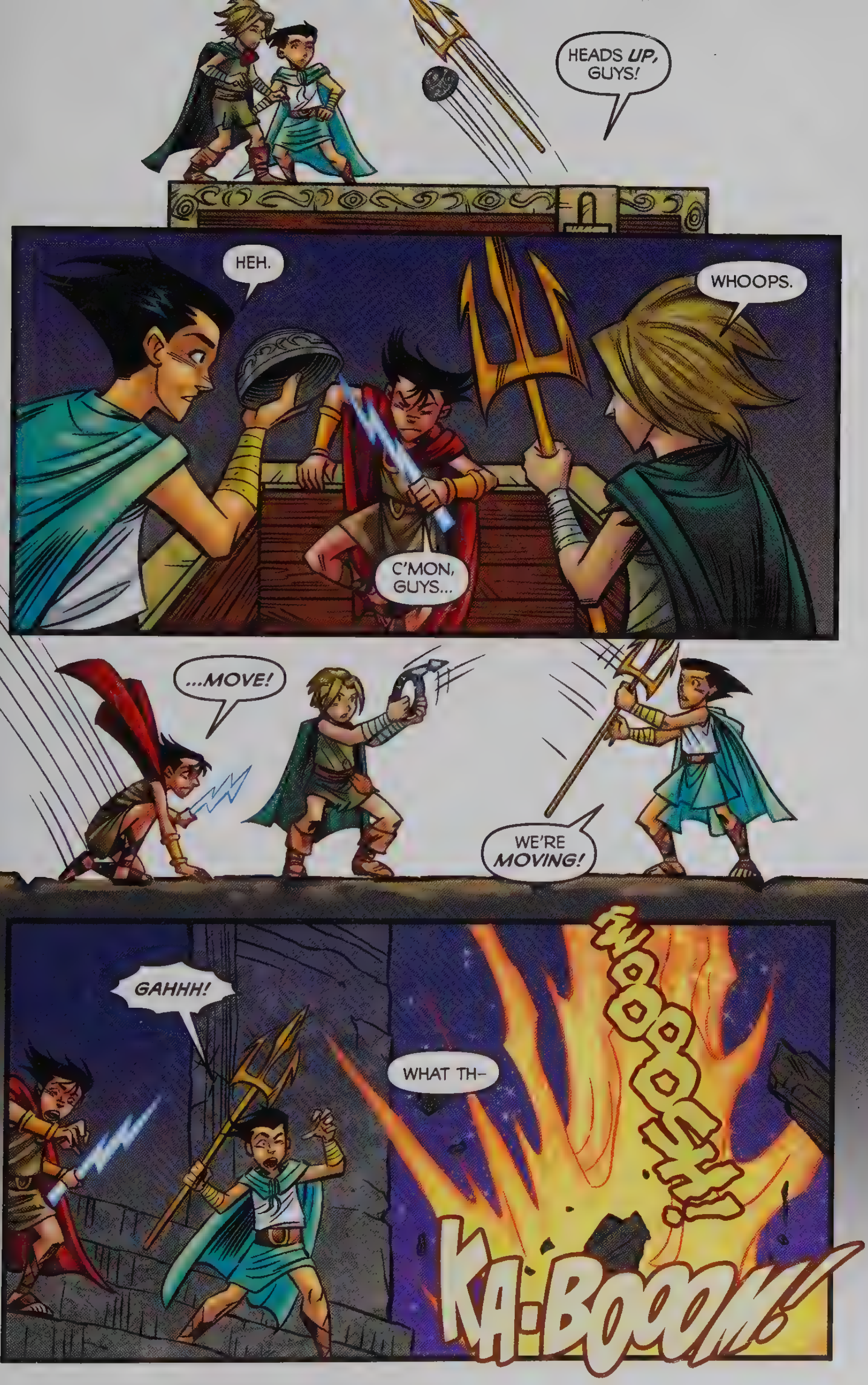

HERA!
MY NAME IS *HERA!*
NOW THE TEARS RETURN...
...AND THEY ARE *TEARS* OF *JOY.*

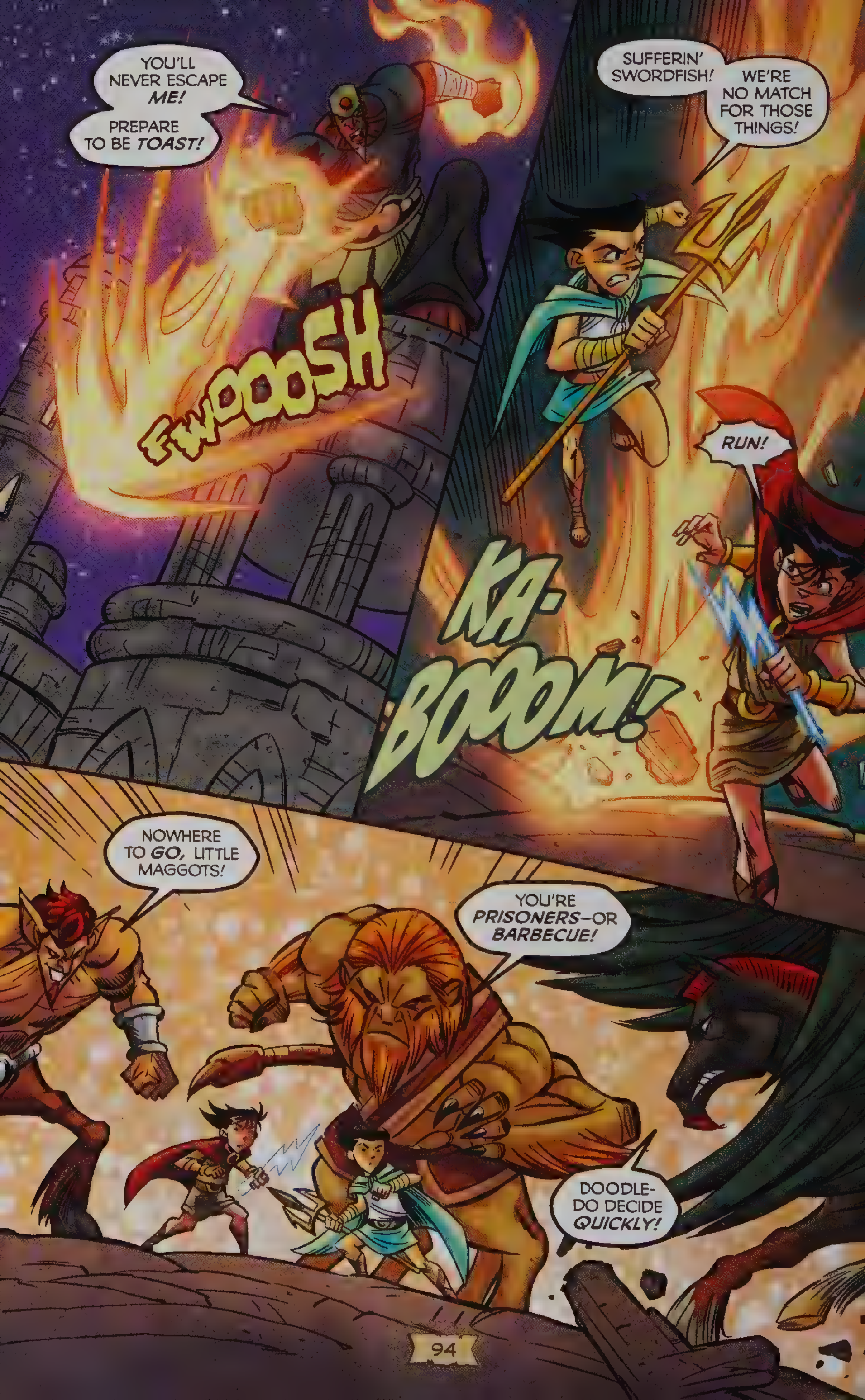
CHAPTER NINE:
THEIA

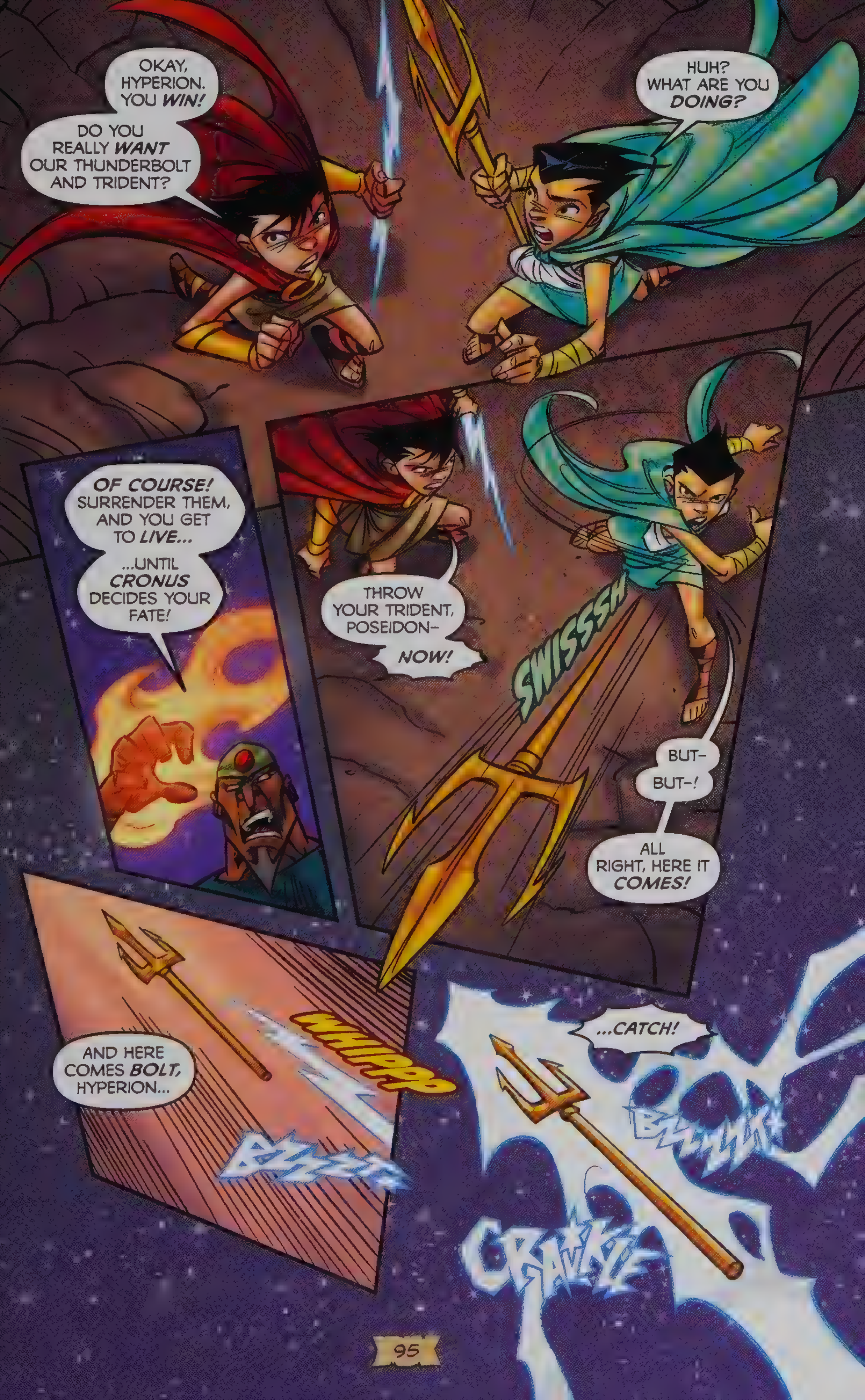

HEY! I BET MY *TRIDENT'S* IN THIS GIANT *BOX!*
BUT IT'S *LOCKED*—AND I CAN'T GET IT OPEN!
THUMP
THUMP
IT'S PROBABLY A *JEWELRY BOX* FIT FOR A TITAN!
KING
LOCKED, YOU SAY?
I HAVE AN *IDEA!*

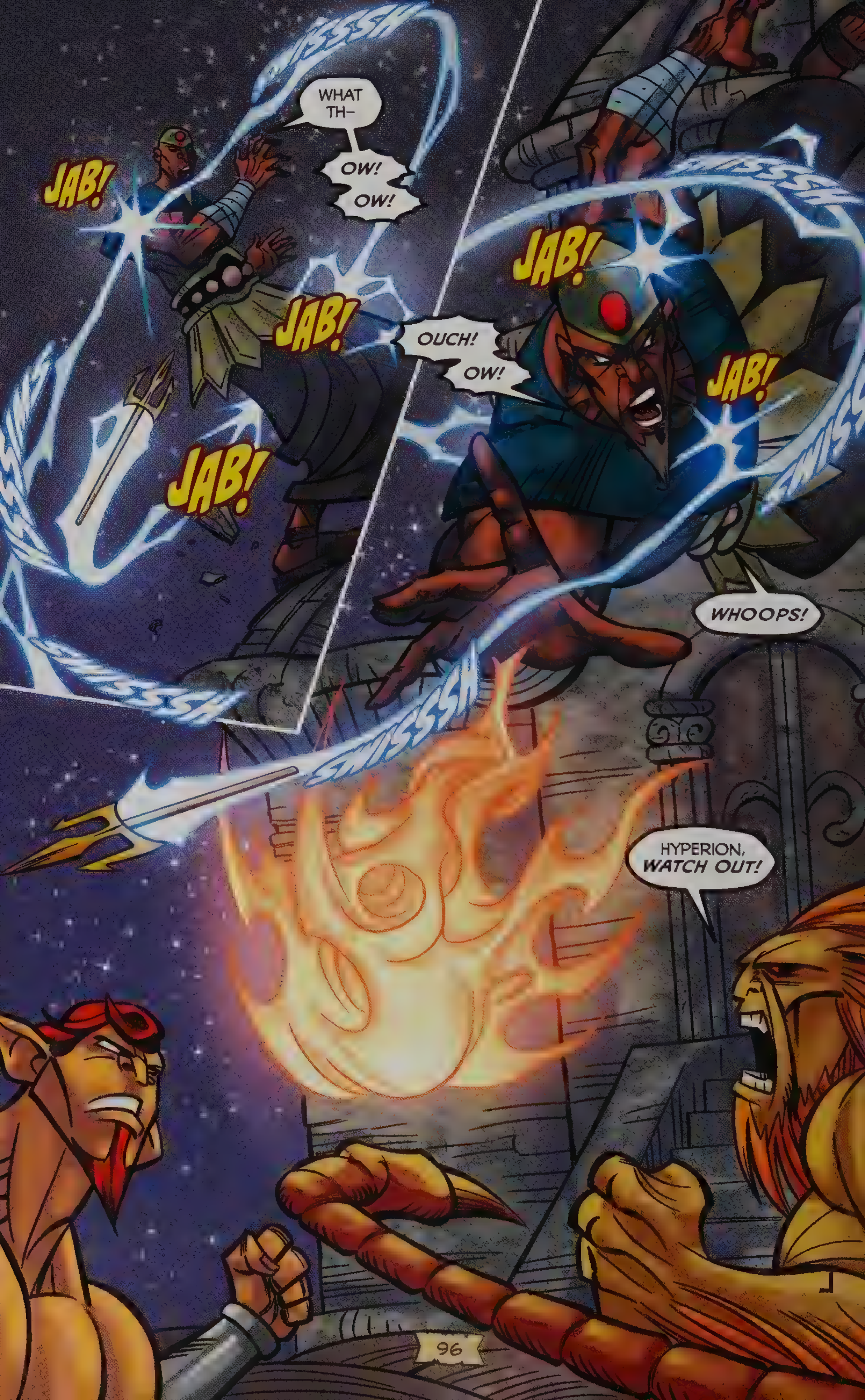

BOLT! COME BACK, BOY!
TWEEEET!
BOLT, CAN YOU CUT THROUGH THIS LOCK?
SWOOSH
SWOOOSH!
WOW!

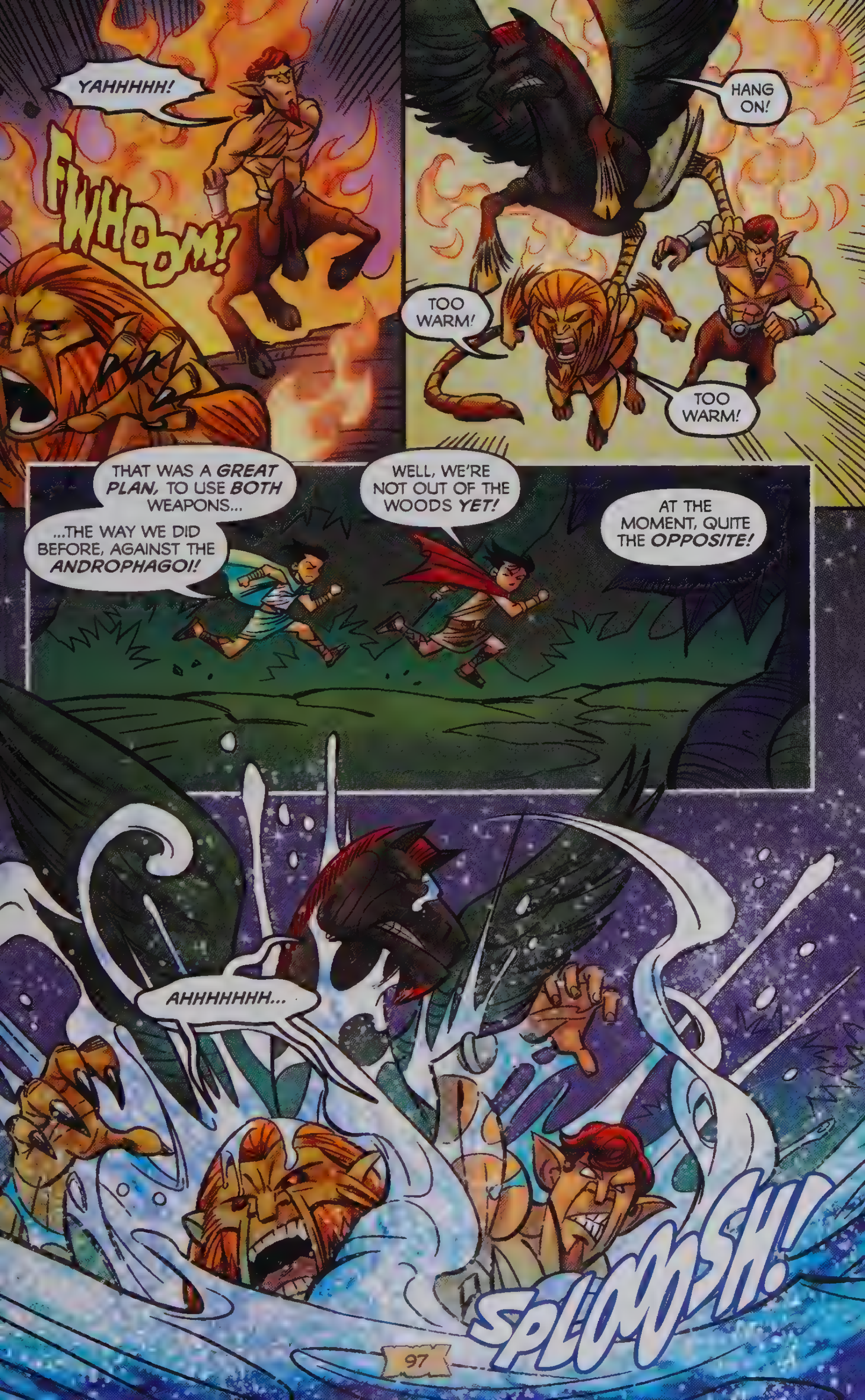

BZZZT!
GOOD THINKING, BOLT!
NOW, GUYS. *HEAVE!*
THUMMMP!
YES! I WAS *RIGHT!* BOTH MY TRIDENT AND THE *HELM* ARE IN HERE!
NOTHING ELSE, THOUGH.
I'D HOPED THE *FLAME* WOULD BE HERE TOO...
...BUT THAT MIGHT LIKELY BURN RIGHT THROUGH THE WOOD!
YOU'VE *GOT* TO GET THAT DOOR FIXED!
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DOODLE-DO? IT'S A HUGE MARBLE TEMPLE.
THINGS *ECHO!*
WELL, *I'M* GOING TO SLAY SOME *OLYMPIANS!*
DOOOOOM
THERE MUST BE AN OUTSIDE ENTRANCE BACK INTO THE CATACOMBS!
BZZZT!
KRAKKLE

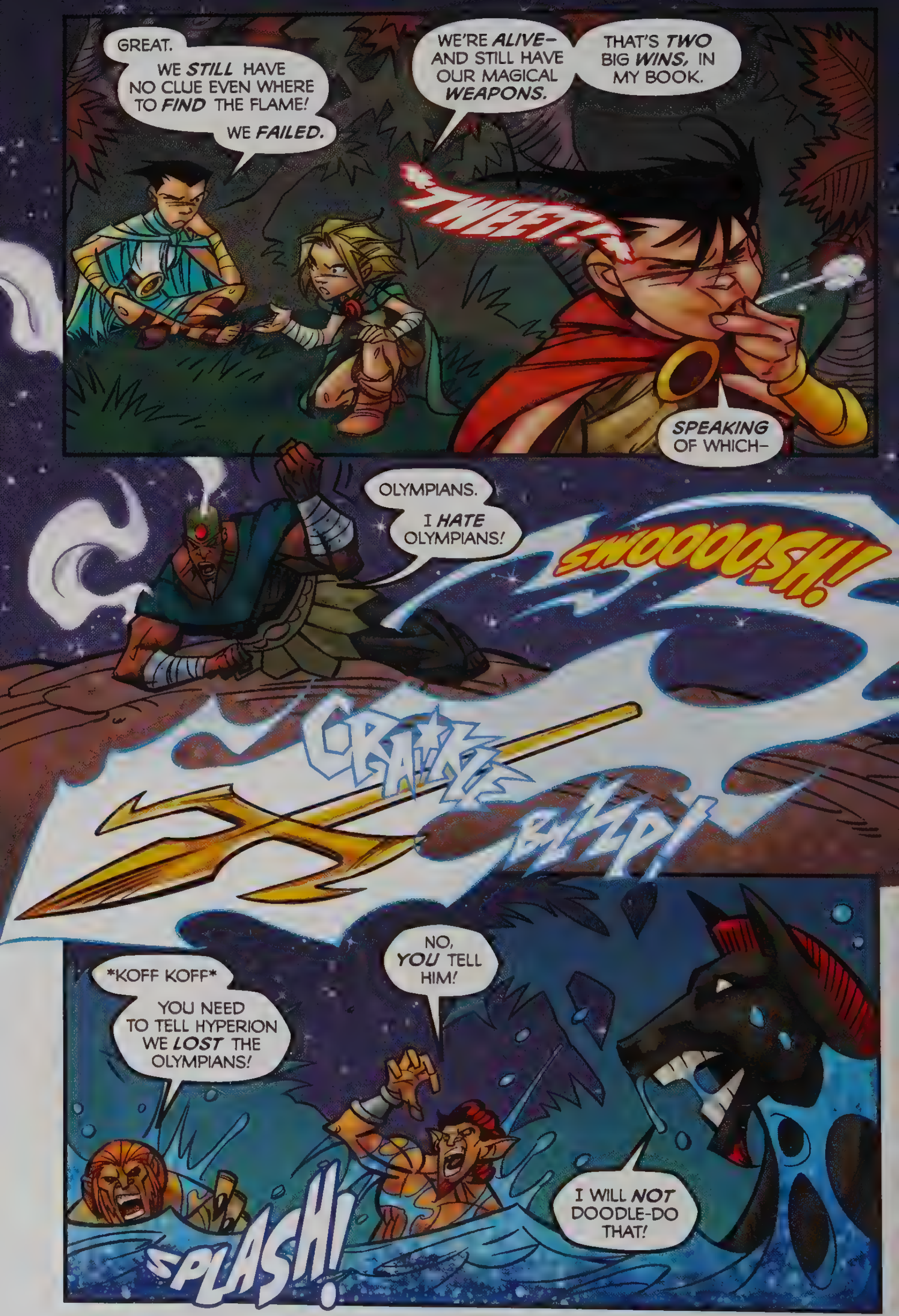

HEADS UP, GUYS!
HEH.
WHOOPS.
C'MON, GUYS...
...MOVE!
WE'RE MOVING!
GAHHH!
WHAT TH–
WOOOSH!
KA-BOOOM!

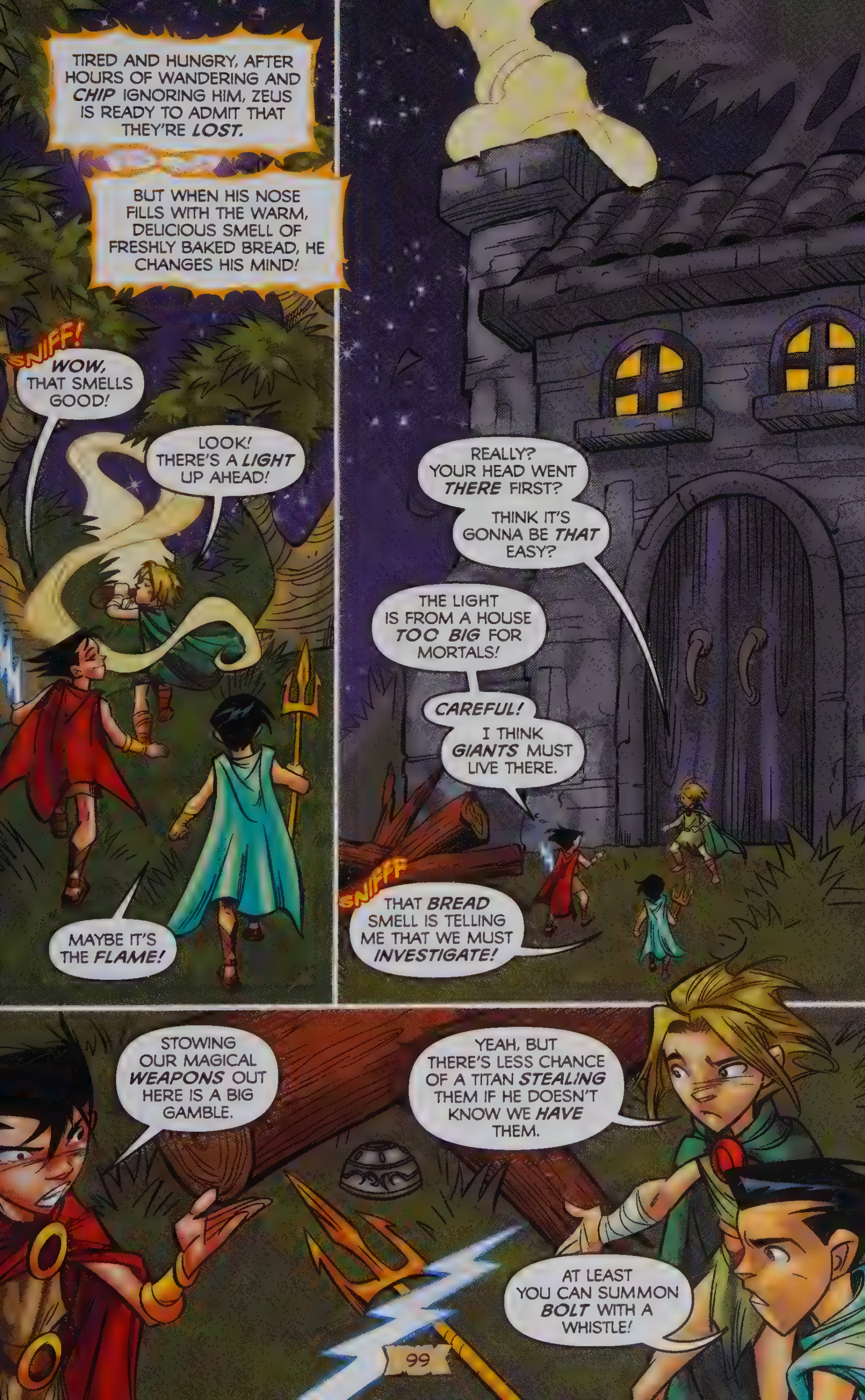

YOU'LL NEVER ESCAPE *ME!*
PREPARE TO BE *TOAST!*
FWOOOSH
SUFFERIN' SWORDFISH!
WE'RE NO MATCH FOR THOSE THINGS!
RUN!
KA-BOOOM!
NOWHERE TO *GO,* LITTLE MAGGOTS!
YOU'RE *PRISONERS*—OR *BARBECUE!*
DOODLE-DO DECIDE *QUICKLY!*

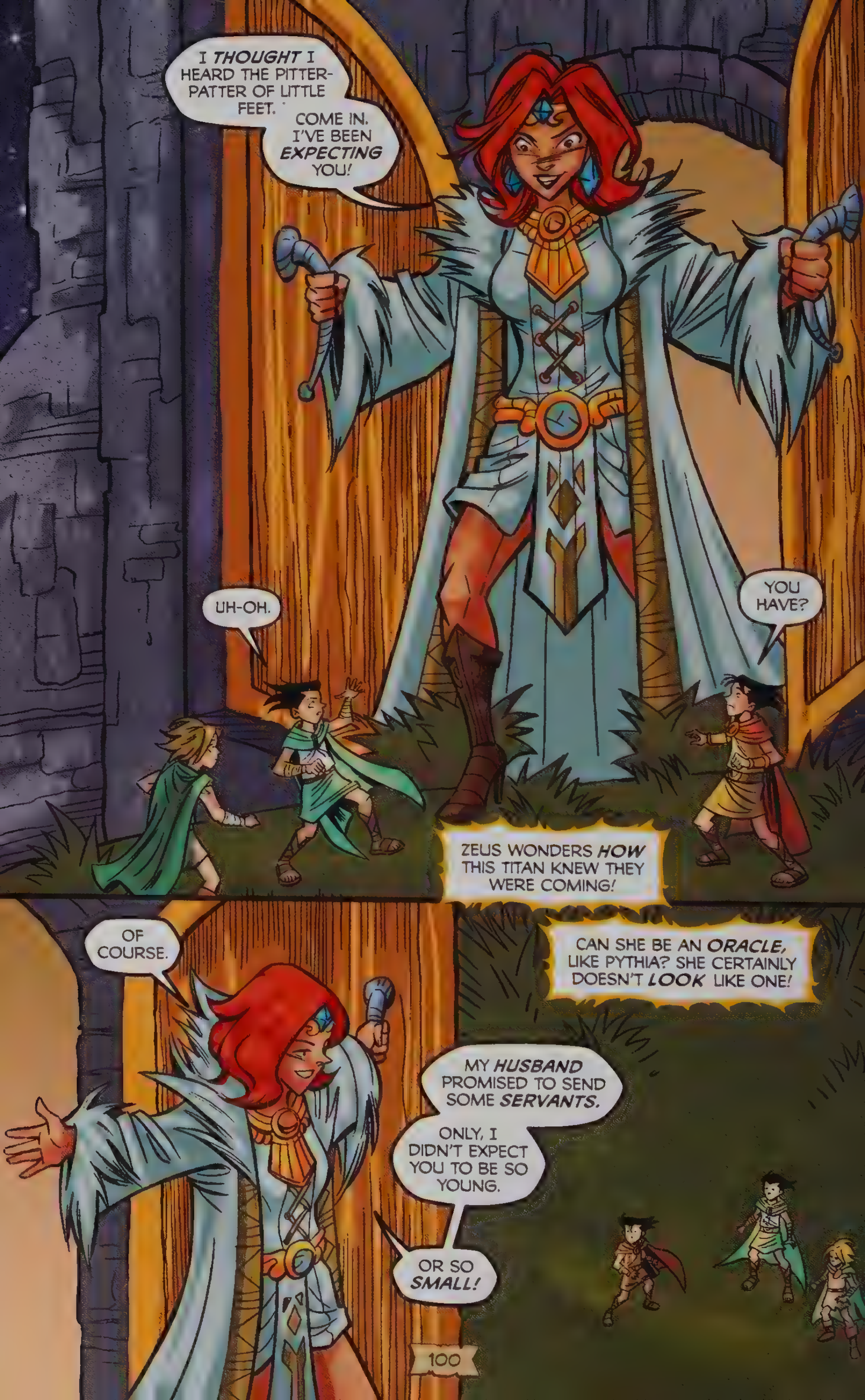

OKAY, HYPERION. YOU *WIN!*
DO YOU REALLY *WANT* OUR THUNDERBOLT AND TRIDENT?
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?*
OF COURSE! SURRENDER THEM, AND YOU GET TO *LIVE...*
...UNTIL *CRONUS* DECIDES YOUR FATE!
THROW YOUR TRIDENT, POSEIDON–
NOW!
SWISSSH
BUT–
BUT–!
ALL RIGHT, HERE IT *COMES!*
AND HERE COMES *BOLT,* HYPERION...
WHIPP
BZZZT
...CATCH!
CRAKKLE

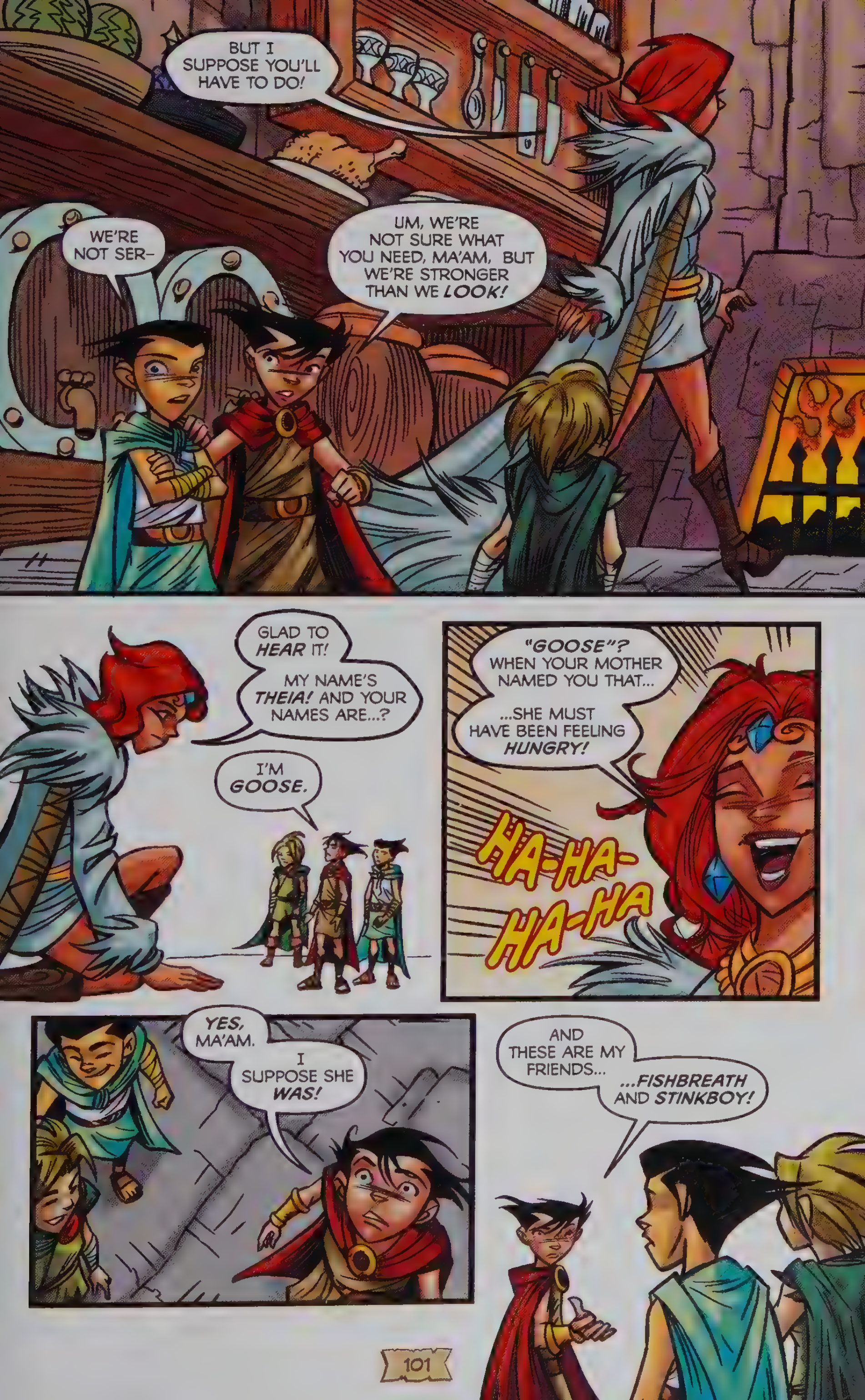

SWISSSH
WHAT TH—
OW!
OW!
JAB!
JAB!
JAB!
SWISSSH
SWISSSH
JAB!
OUCH!
OW!
JAB!
SWISSSH
WHOOPS!
SWISSSH
HYPERION, *WATCH OUT!*

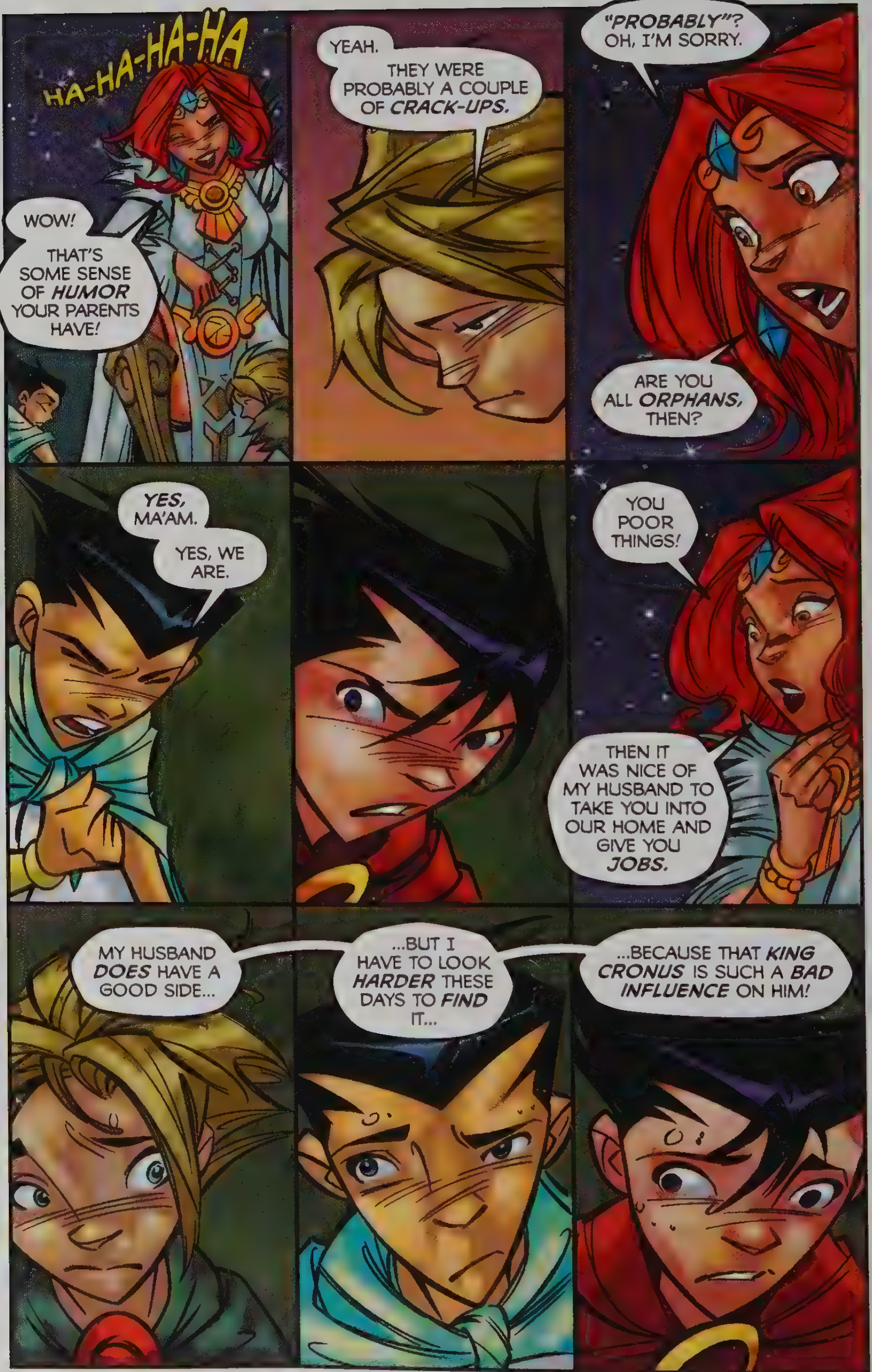

YAHHHHH!
FWHOOM!
HANG ON!
TOO WARM!
TOO WARM!
THAT WAS A *GREAT PLAN,* TO USE *BOTH* WEAPONS...
...THE WAY WE DID BEFORE, AGAINST THE *ANDROPHAGOI!*
WELL, WE'RE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS *YET!*
AT THE MOMENT, QUITE THE *OPPOSITE!*
AHHHHHHH...
SPLOOOSH!

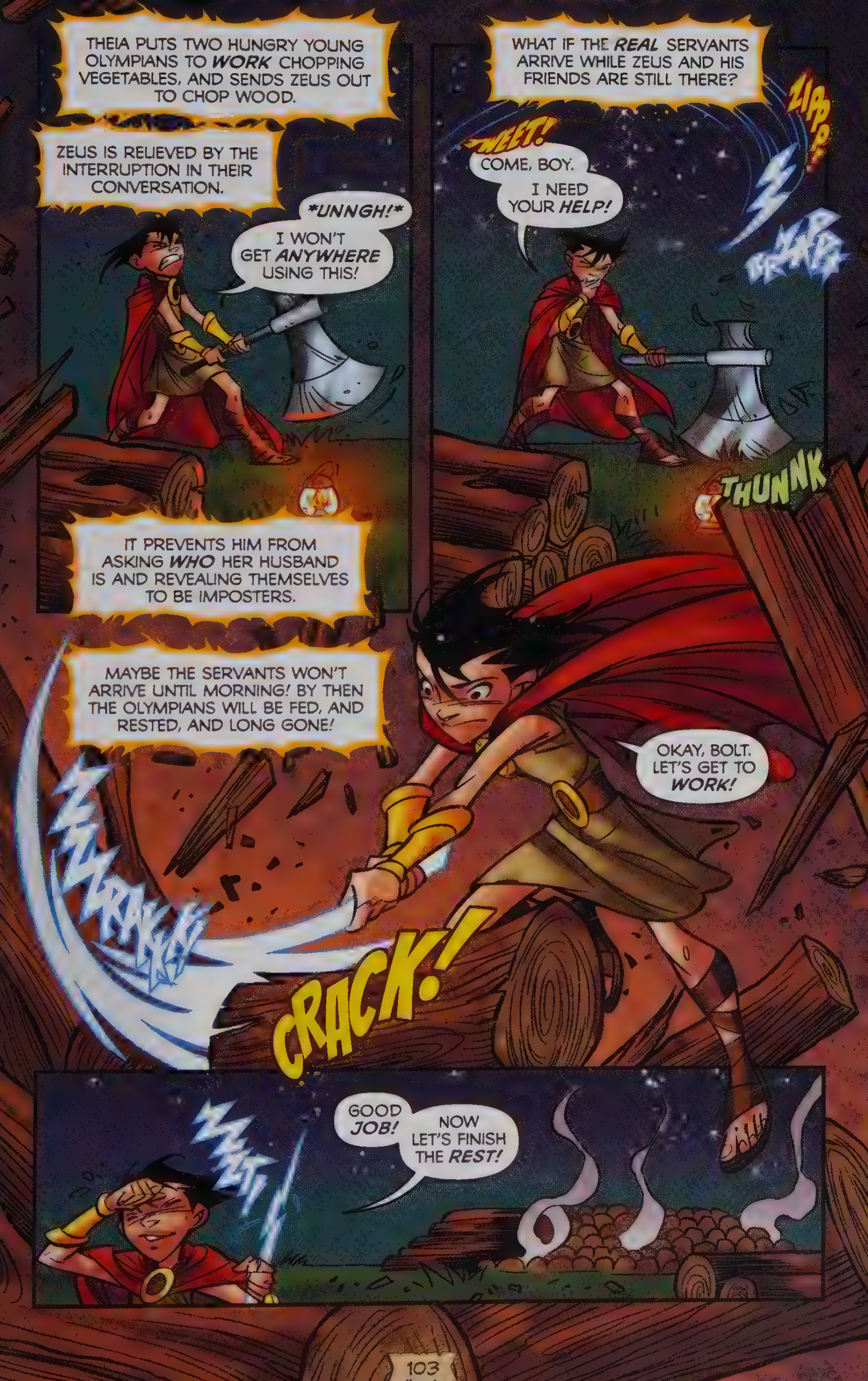

GREAT.
WE STILL HAVE NO CLUE EVEN WHERE TO FIND THE FLAME!
WE FAILED.
WE'RE ALIVE– AND STILL HAVE OUR MAGICAL WEAPONS.
THAT'S TWO BIG WINS, IN MY BOOK.
TWEET
SPEAKING OF WHICH–
OLYMPIANS.
I HATE OLYMPIANS!
SWOOOOSH!
CRACK
BZZZP!
KOFF KOFF
YOU NEED TO TELL HYPERION WE LOST THE OLYMPIANS!
NO, YOU TELL HIM!
I WILL NOT DOODLE-DO THAT!
SPLASH!

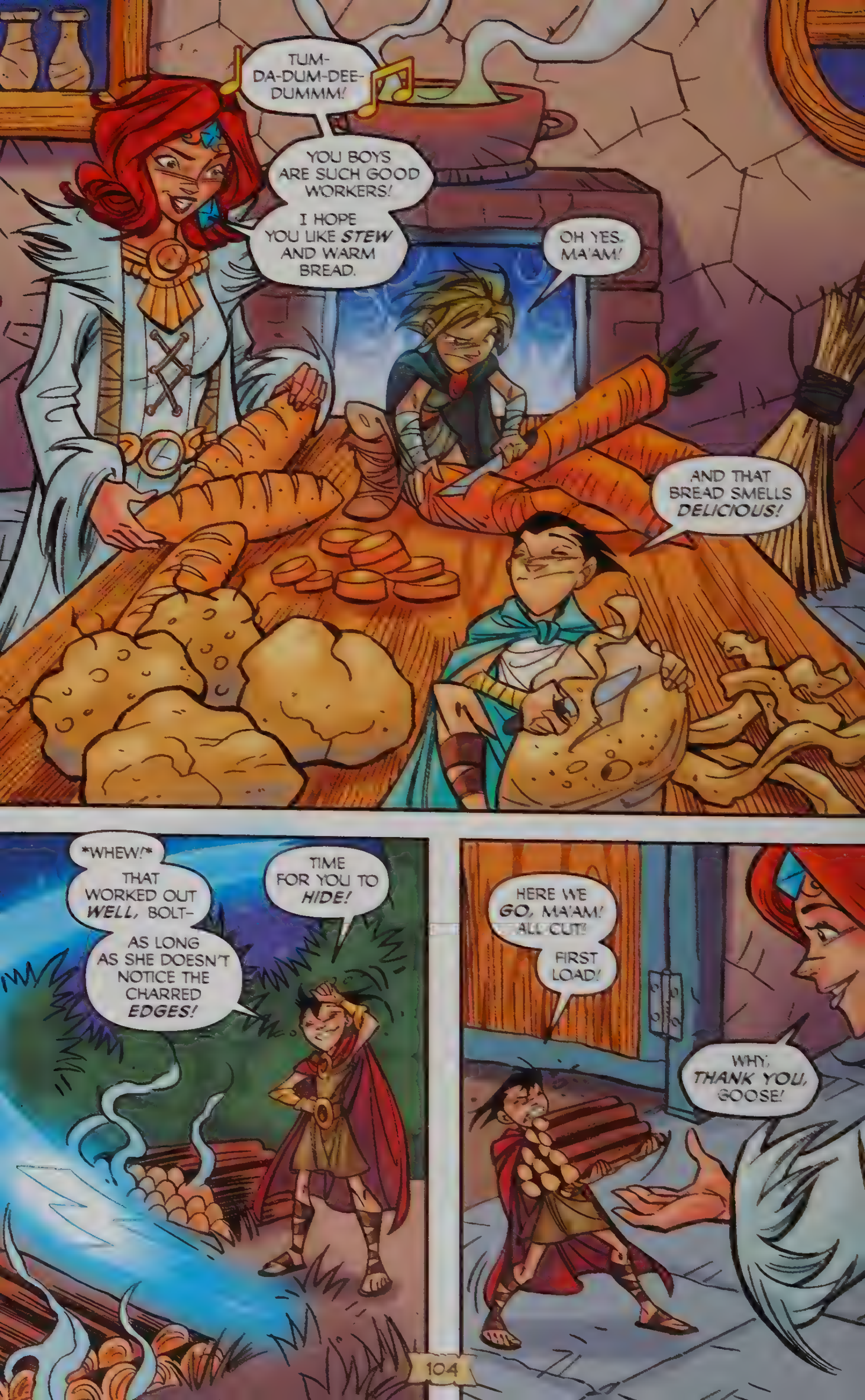

TIRED AND HUNGRY, AFTER HOURS OF WANDERING AND *CHIP* IGNORING HIM, ZEUS IS READY TO ADMIT THAT THEY'RE *LOST.*
BUT WHEN HIS NOSE FILLS WITH THE WARM, DELICIOUS SMELL OF FRESHLY BAKED BREAD, HE CHANGES HIS MIND!
SNIFF!
WOW, THAT SMELLS GOOD!
LOOK! THERE'S A *LIGHT* UP AHEAD!
MAYBE IT'S THE *FLAME!*
REALLY? YOUR HEAD WENT *THERE* FIRST?
THINK IT'S GONNA BE *THAT* EASY?
THE LIGHT IS FROM A HOUSE *TOO BIG* FOR MORTALS!
CAREFUL! I THINK *GIANTS* MUST LIVE THERE.
SNIFFF
THAT *BREAD* SMELL IS TELLING ME THAT WE MUST *INVESTIGATE!*
STOWING OUR MAGICAL *WEAPONS* OUT HERE IS A BIG GAMBLE.
YEAH, BUT THERE'S LESS CHANCE OF A TITAN *STEALING* THEM IF HE DOESN'T KNOW WE *HAVE* THEM.
AT LEAST YOU CAN SUMMON *BOLT* WITH A WHISTLE!

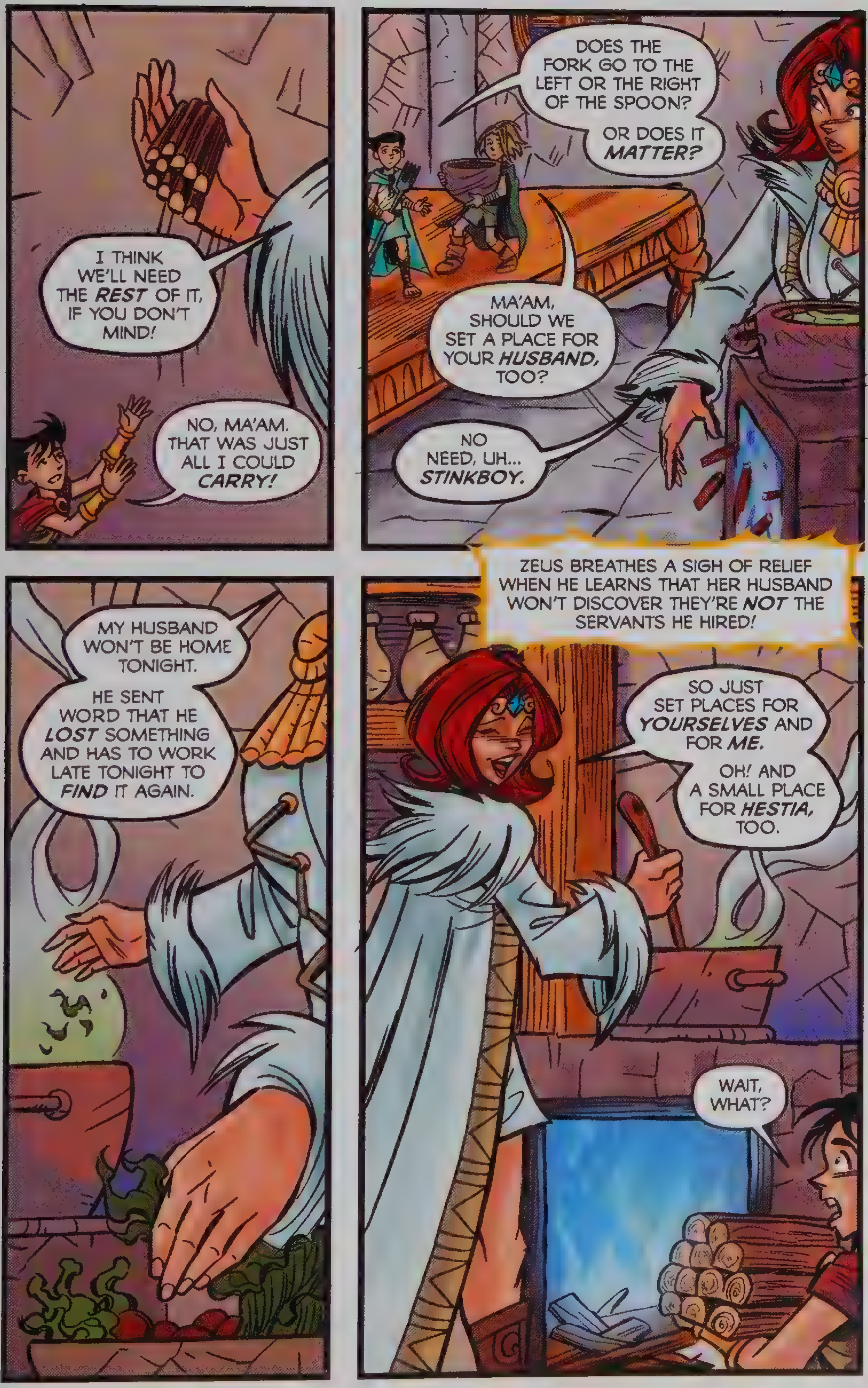

I *THOUGHT* I HEARD THE PITTER-PATTER OF LITTLE FEET.
COME IN. I'VE BEEN *EXPECTING* YOU!
UH-OH.
YOU HAVE?
ZEUS WONDERS *HOW* THIS TITAN KNEW THEY WERE COMING!
OF COURSE.
CAN SHE BE AN *ORACLE,* LIKE PYTHIA? SHE CERTAINLY DOESN'T *LOOK* LIKE ONE!
MY *HUSBAND* PROMISED TO SEND SOME *SERVANTS.*
ONLY, I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO BE SO YOUNG.
OR SO *SMALL!*


BUT I SUPPOSE YOU'LL HAVE TO DO!
WE'RE NOT SER–
UM, WE'RE NOT SURE WHAT YOU NEED, MA'AM, BUT WE'RE STRONGER THAN WE *LOOK!*
GLAD TO *HEAR* IT!
MY NAME'S *THEIA!* AND YOUR NAMES ARE...?
I'M *GOOSE.*
"GOOSE"? WHEN YOUR MOTHER NAMED YOU THAT...
...SHE MUST HAVE BEEN FEELING *HUNGRY!*
HA-HA-HA-HA
YES, MA'AM.
I SUPPOSE SHE *WAS!*
AND THESE ARE MY FRIENDS...
...FISHBREATH AND *STINKBOY!*

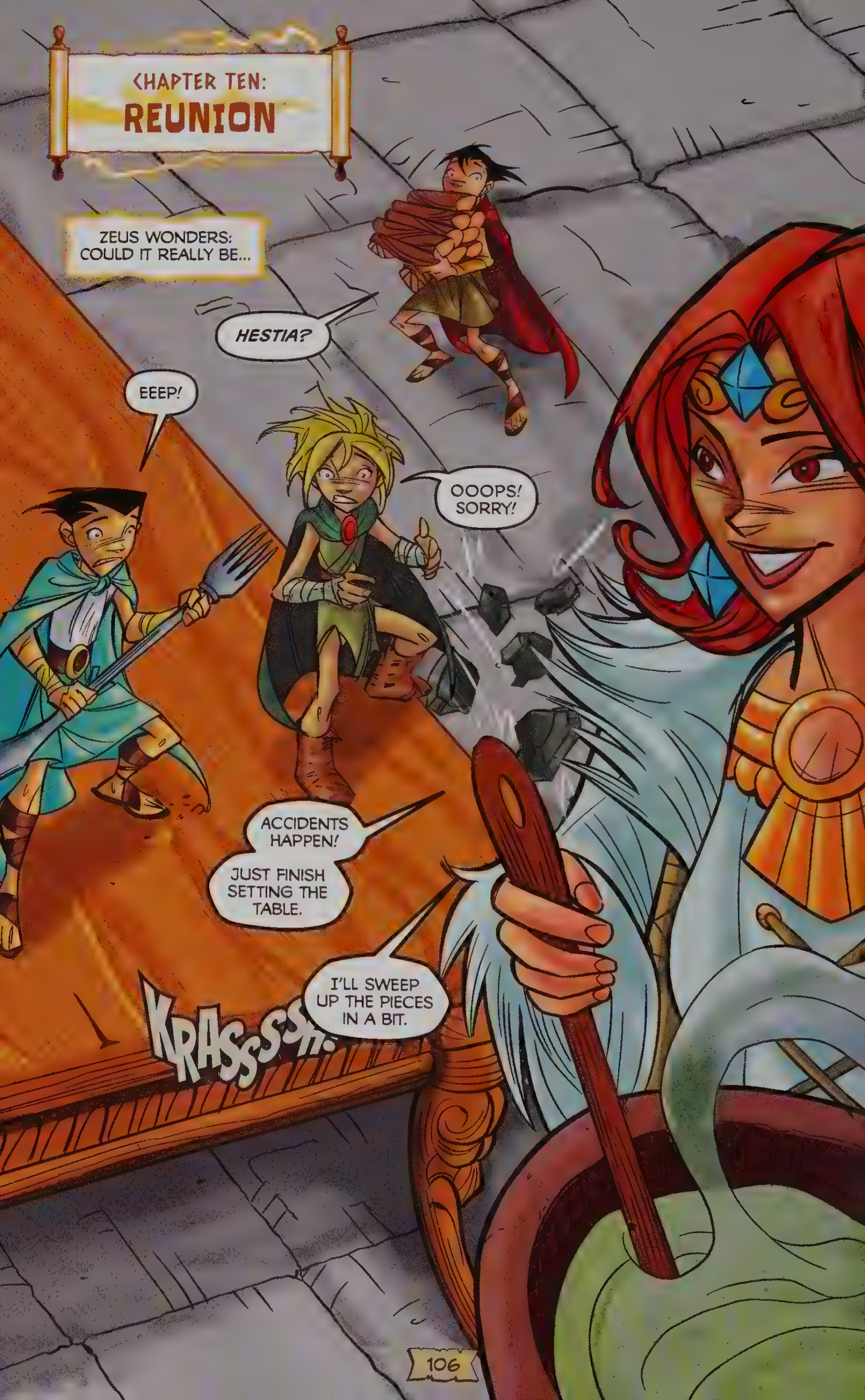

HA-HA-HA-HA
WOW!
THAT'S SOME SENSE OF *HUMOR* YOUR PARENTS HAVE!
YEAH.
THEY WERE PROBABLY A COUPLE OF *CRACK-UPS.*
"PROBABLY"? OH, I'M SORRY.
ARE YOU ALL *ORPHANS,* THEN?
YES, MA'AM.
YES, WE ARE.
YOU POOR THINGS!
THEN IT WAS NICE OF MY HUSBAND TO TAKE YOU INTO OUR HOME AND GIVE YOU *JOBS.*
MY HUSBAND *DOES* HAVE A GOOD SIDE...
...BUT I HAVE TO LOOK *HARDER* THESE DAYS TO *FIND* IT...
...BECAUSE THAT *KING CRONUS* IS SUCH A *BAD INFLUENCE* ON HIM!

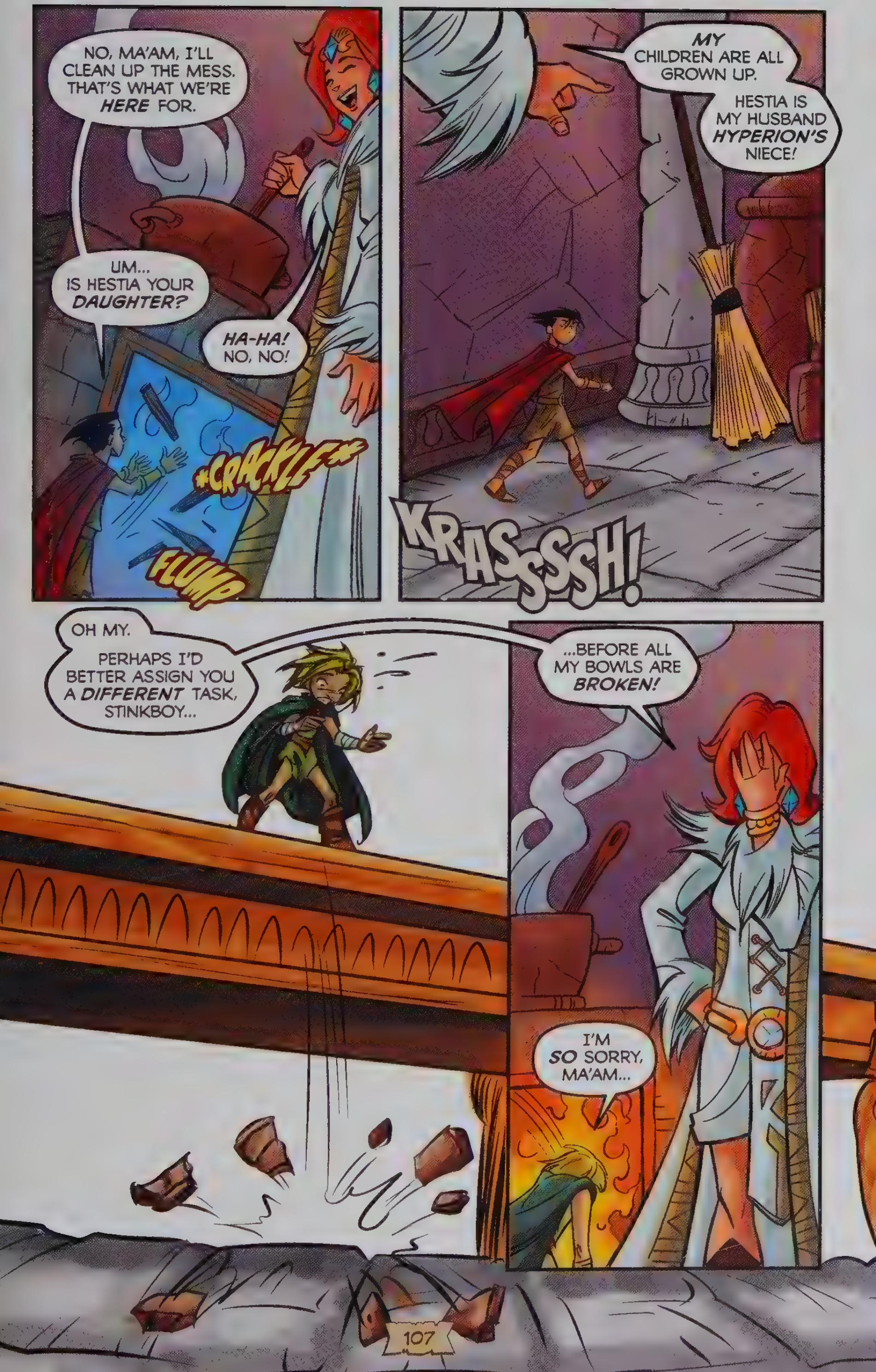

THEIA PUTS TWO HUNGRY YOUNG OLYMPIANS TO *WORK* CHOPPING VEGETABLES, AND SENDS ZEUS OUT TO CHOP WOOD.
ZEUS IS RELIEVED BY THE INTERRUPTION IN THEIR CONVERSATION.
UNNGH!
I WON'T GET *ANYWHERE* USING THIS!
WHAT IF THE *REAL* SERVANTS ARRIVE WHILE ZEUS AND HIS FRIENDS ARE STILL THERE?
TWEET!
ZIPP!
COME, BOY.
I NEED YOUR *HELP!*
THUNNK
IT PREVENTS HIM FROM ASKING *WHO* HER HUSBAND IS AND REVEALING THEMSELVES TO BE IMPOSTERS.
MAYBE THE SERVANTS WON'T ARRIVE UNTIL MORNING! BY THEN THE OLYMPIANS WILL BE FED, AND RESTED, AND LONG GONE!
OKAY, BOLT. LET'S GET TO *WORK!*
CRACK!
GOOD *JOB!*
NOW LET'S FINISH THE *REST!*

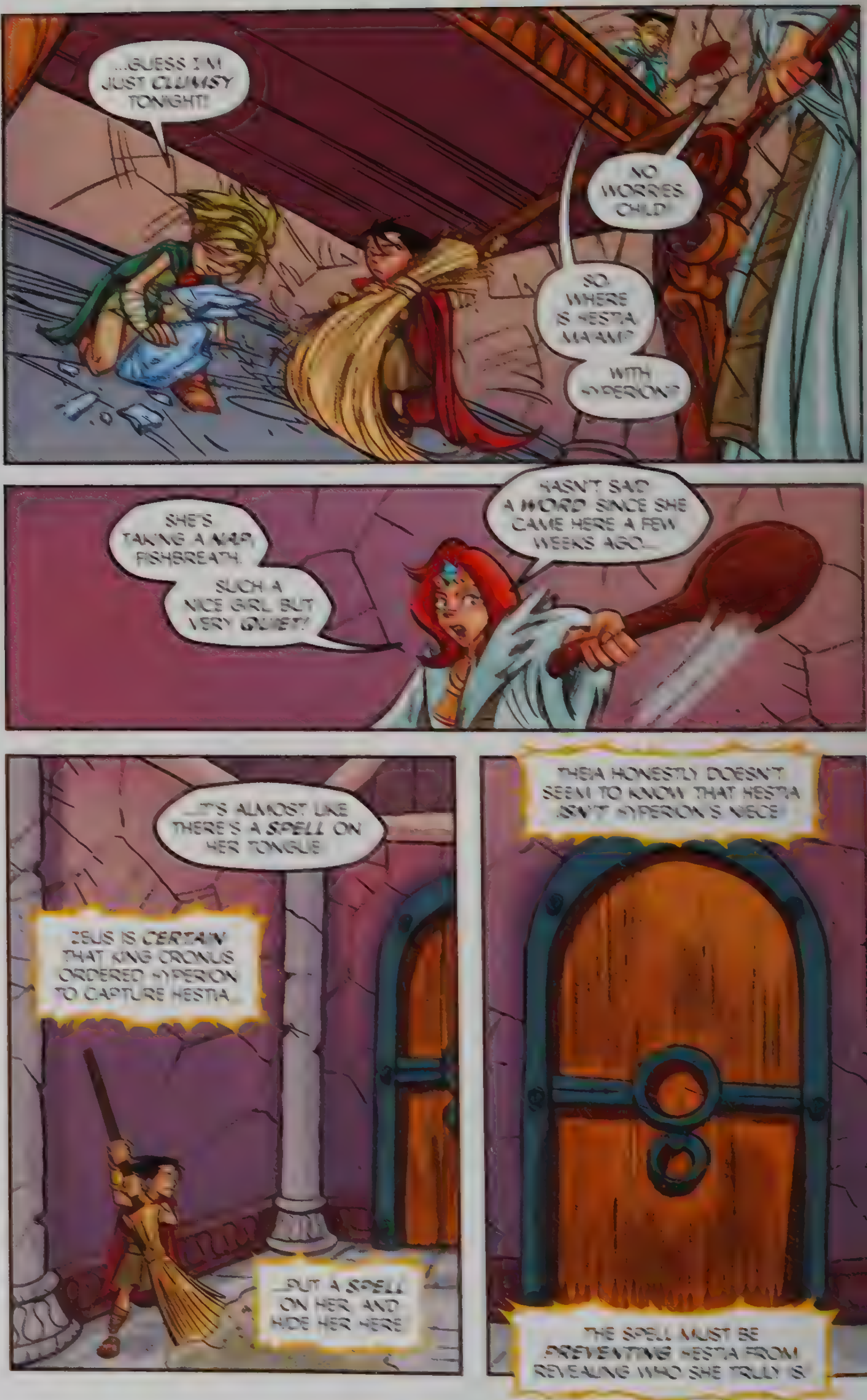

TUM-DA-DUM-DEE-DUMMM!
YOU BOYS ARE SUCH GOOD WORKERS!
I HOPE YOU LIKE *STEW* AND WARM BREAD.
OH YES, MA'AM!
AND THAT BREAD SMELLS *DELICIOUS!*
WHEW! THAT WORKED OUT *WELL*, BOLT-
AS LONG AS SHE DOESN'T NOTICE THE CHARRED *EDGES!*
TIME FOR YOU TO *HIDE!*
HERE WE *GO*, MA'AM! ALL CUT!
FIRST LOAD!
WHY, *THANK YOU*, GOOSE!

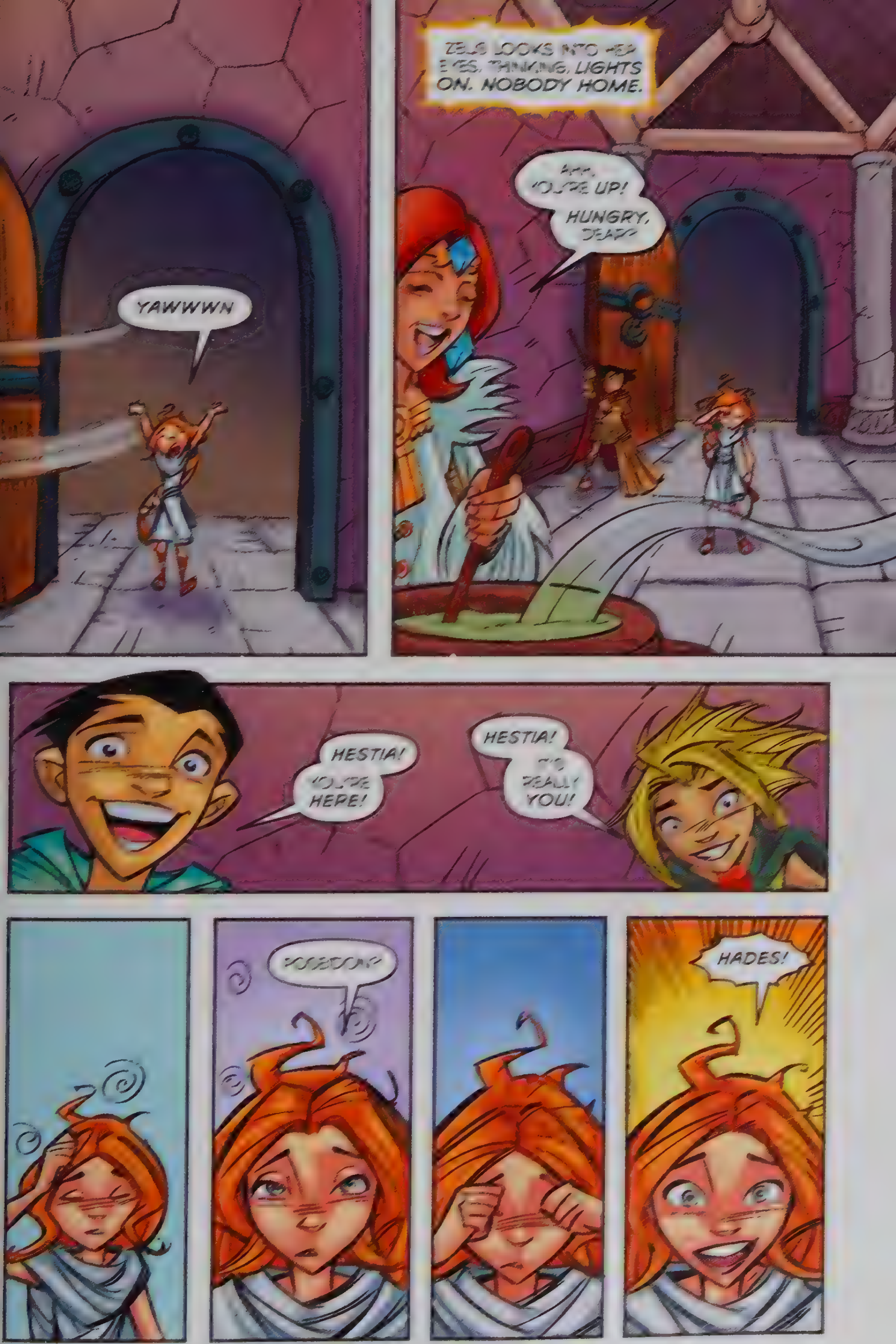

I THINK WE'LL NEED THE ***REST*** OF IT, IF YOU DON'T MIND!
NO, MA'AM. THAT WAS JUST ALL I COULD ***CARRY!***
DOES THE FORK GO TO THE LEFT OR THE RIGHT OF THE SPOON?
OR DOES IT ***MATTER?***
MA'AM, SHOULD WE SET A PLACE FOR YOUR ***HUSBAND,*** TOO?
NO NEED, UH... ***STINKBOY.***
MY HUSBAND WON'T BE HOME TONIGHT.
HE SENT WORD THAT HE ***LOST*** SOMETHING AND HAS TO WORK LATE TONIGHT TO ***FIND*** IT AGAIN.
ZEUS BREATHES A SIGH OF RELIEF WHEN HE LEARNS THAT HER HUSBAND WON'T DISCOVER THEY'RE ***NOT*** THE SERVANTS HE HIRED!
SO JUST SET PLACES FOR ***YOURSELVES*** AND FOR ***ME.***
OH! AND A SMALL PLACE FOR ***HESTIA,*** TOO.
WAIT, WHAT?

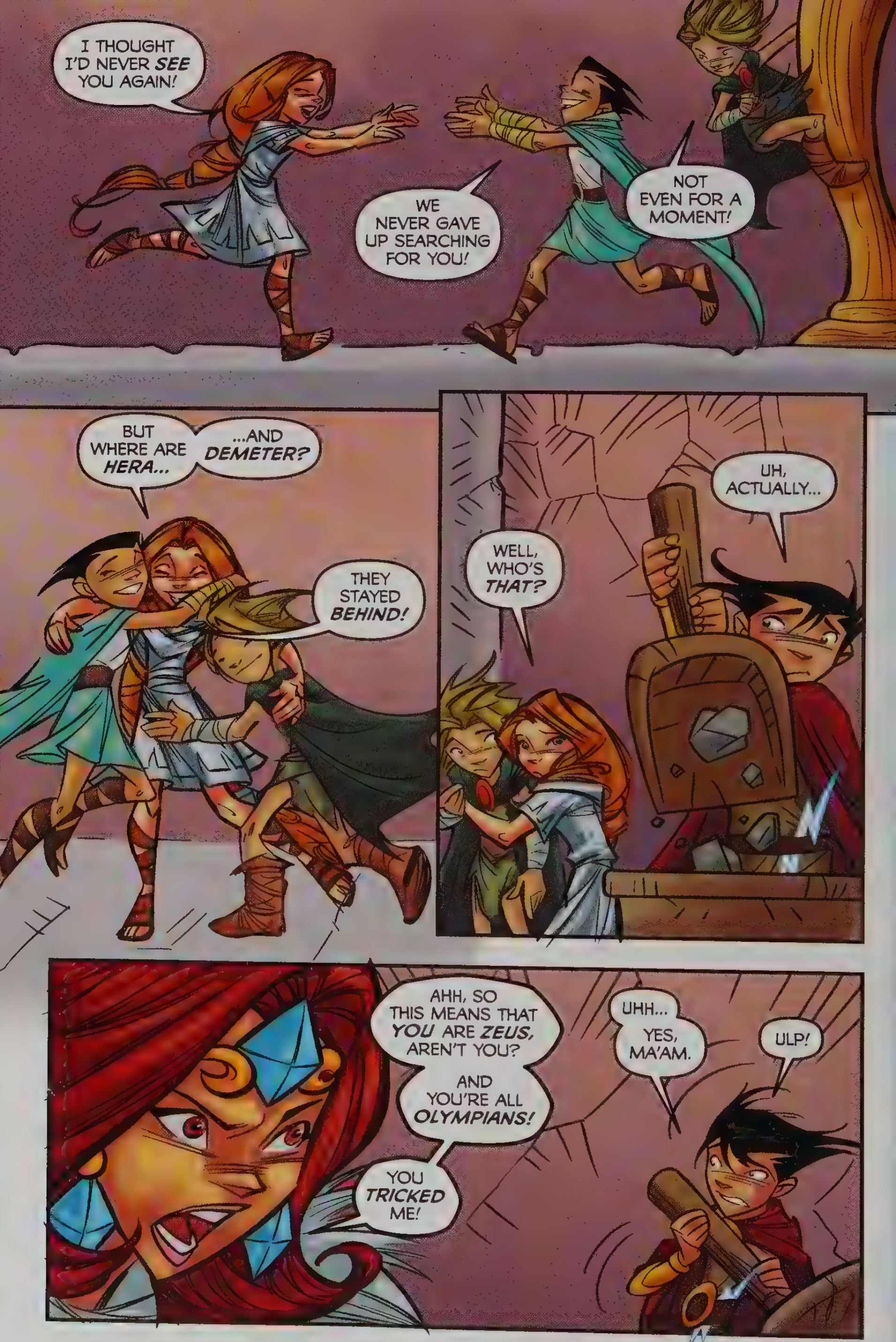
CHAPTER TEN:
REUNION

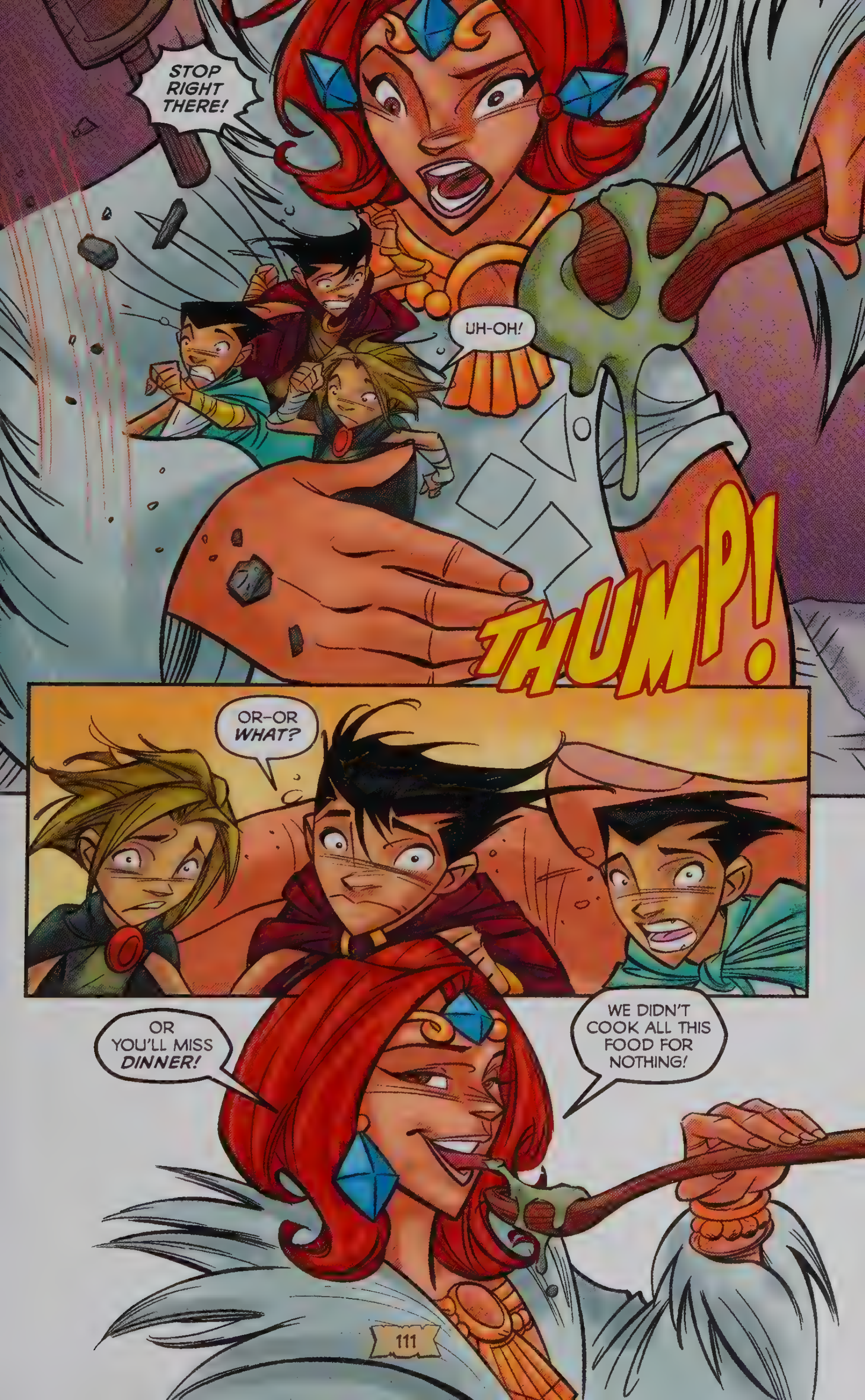

ZEUS WONDERS: COULD IT REALLY BE...
HESTIA?
EEEP!
OOOPS! SORRY!
ACCIDENTS HAPPEN!
JUST FINISH SETTING THE TABLE.
I'LL SWEEP UP THE PIECES IN A BIT.
KRASSSSH!


NO, MA'AM, I'LL CLEAN UP THE MESS. THAT'S WHAT WE'RE *HERE* FOR.
UM... IS HESTIA YOUR *DAUGHTER?*
HA-HA! NO, NO!
CRACKLE
FLUMP
MY CHILDREN ARE ALL GROWN UP.
HESTIA IS MY HUSBAND *HYPERION'S* NIECE!
KRASSSSH!
OH MY.
PERHAPS I'D BETTER ASSIGN YOU A *DIFFERENT* TASK, STINKBOY...
...BEFORE ALL MY BOWLS ARE *BROKEN!*
I'M *SO* SORRY, MA'AM...

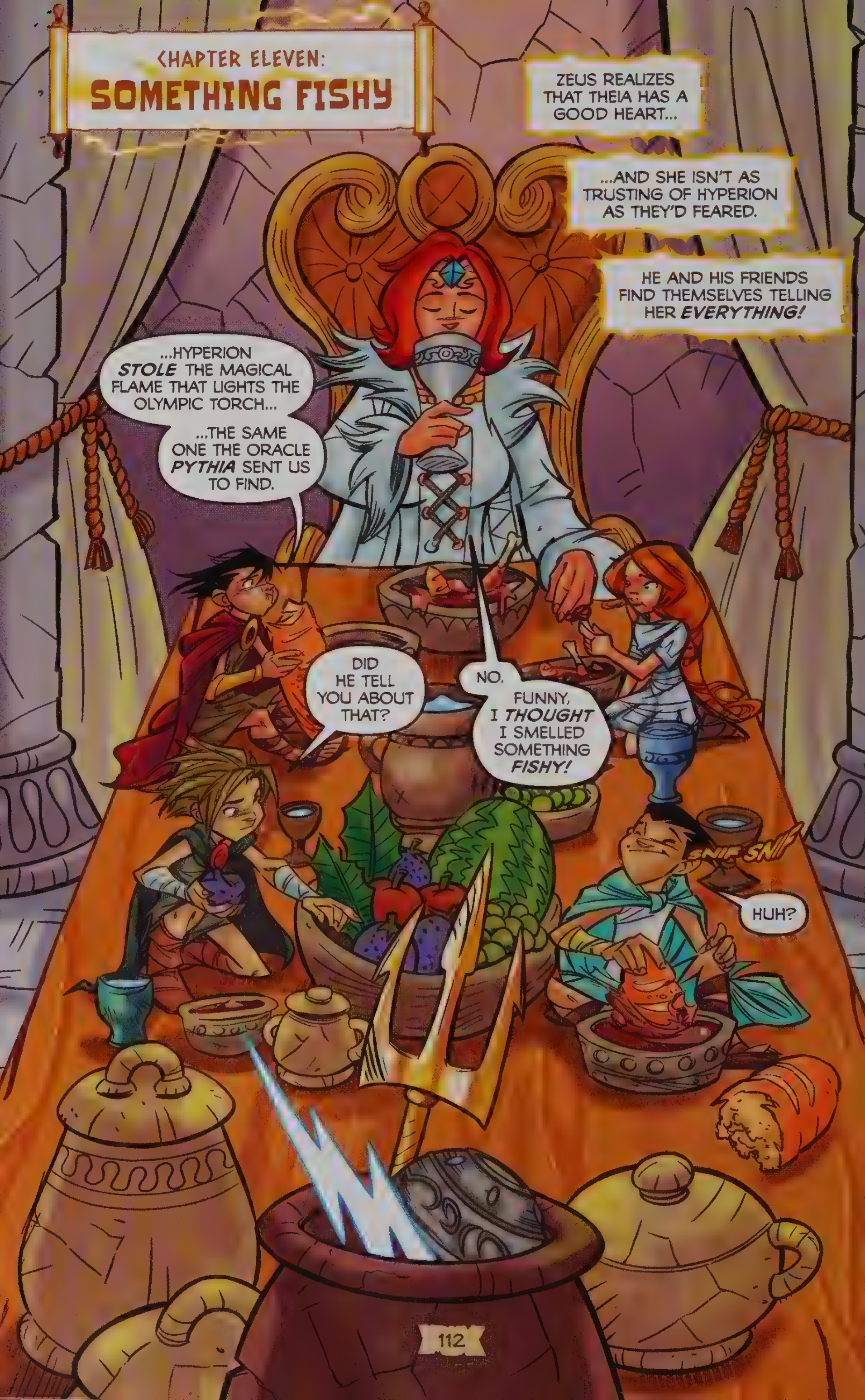

...GUESS I'M JUST **CLUMSY** TONIGHT!
NO WORRIES, CHILD!
SO, WHERE IS HESTIA, MA'AM?
WITH HYPERION?
SHE'S TAKING A *NAP*, FISHBREATH.
SUCH A NICE GIRL BUT VERY *QUIET*!
HASN'T SAID A **WORD** SINCE SHE CAME HERE A FEW WEEKS AGO...
...IT'S ALMOST LIKE THERE'S A *SPELL* ON HER TONGUE.
ZEUS IS *CERTAIN* THAT KING CRONUS ORDERED HYPERION TO CAPTURE HESTIA...
...PUT A *SPELL* ON HER, AND HIDE HER HERE.
THEIA HONESTLY DOESN'T SEEM TO KNOW THAT HESTIA ISN'T HYPERION'S NIECE.
THE SPELL MUST BE *PREVENTING* HESTIA FROM REVEALING WHO SHE TRULY IS!

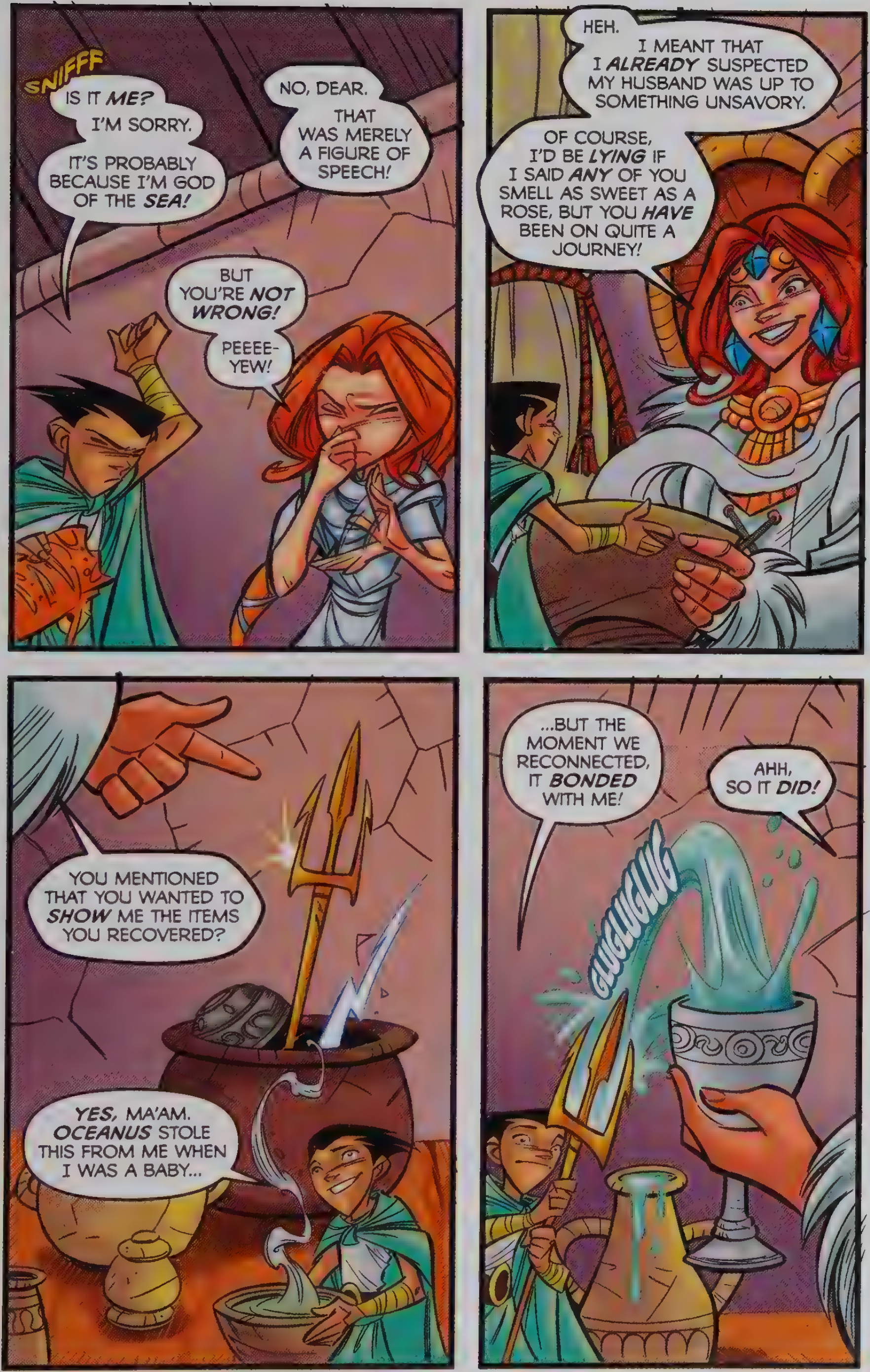

YAWWWN
ZEUS LOOKS INTO HER EYES, THINKING, LIGHTS ON. NOBODY HOME.
AHH, YOU'RE UP! HUNGRY, DEAR?
HESTIA! YOU'RE HERE!
HESTIA! IT'S REALLY YOU!
POSEIDON?
HADES!

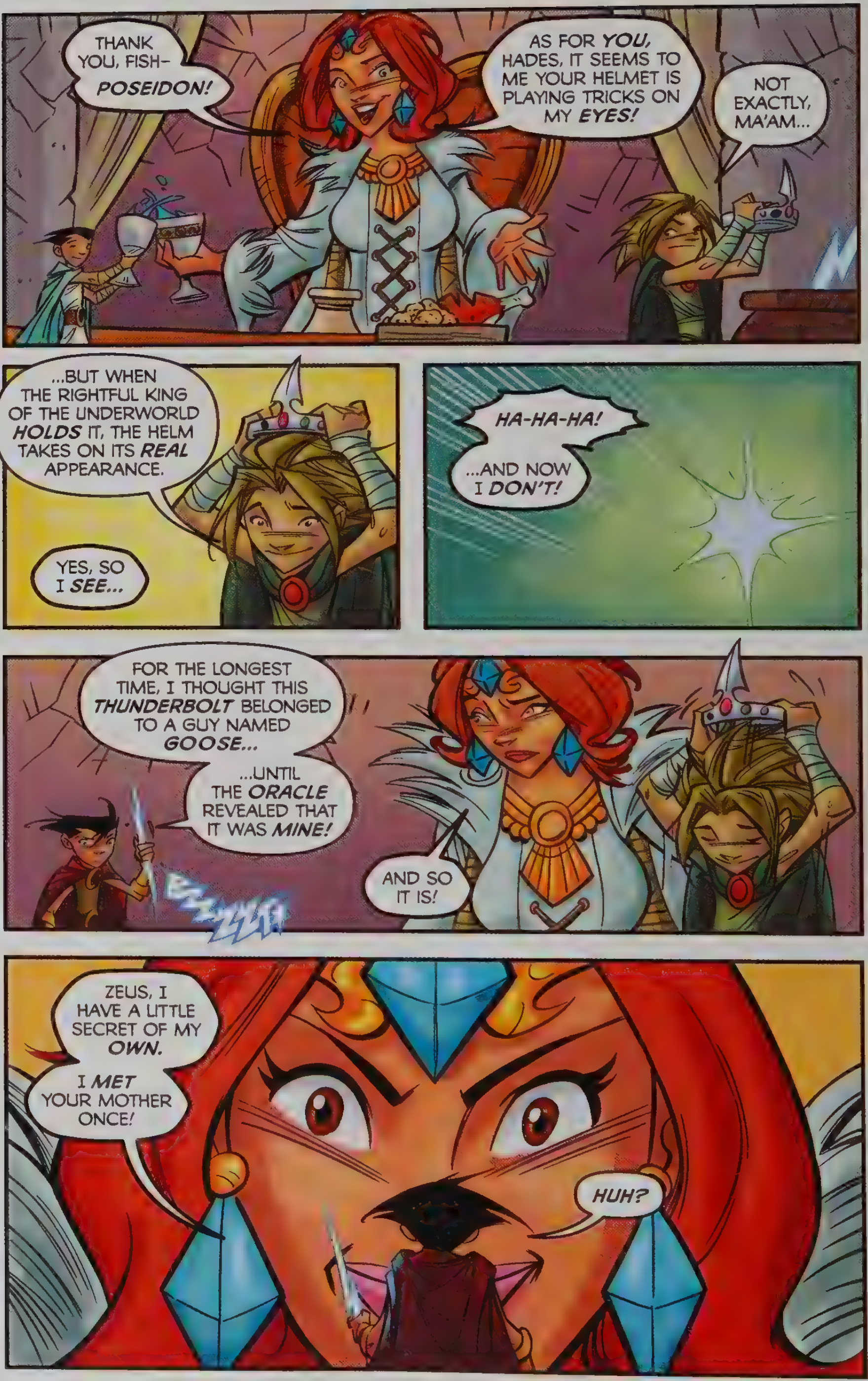

I THOUGHT I'D NEVER *SEE* YOU AGAIN!
WE NEVER GAVE UP SEARCHING FOR YOU!
NOT EVEN FOR A MOMENT!
BUT WHERE ARE *HERA...*
...AND *DEMETER?*
THEY STAYED *BEHIND!*
WELL, WHO'S *THAT?*
UH, ACTUALLY...
AHH, SO THIS MEANS THAT *YOU* ARE *ZEUS,* AREN'T YOU?
AND YOU'RE ALL *OLYMPIANS!*
YOU *TRICKED* ME!
UHH... YES, MA'AM.
ULP!

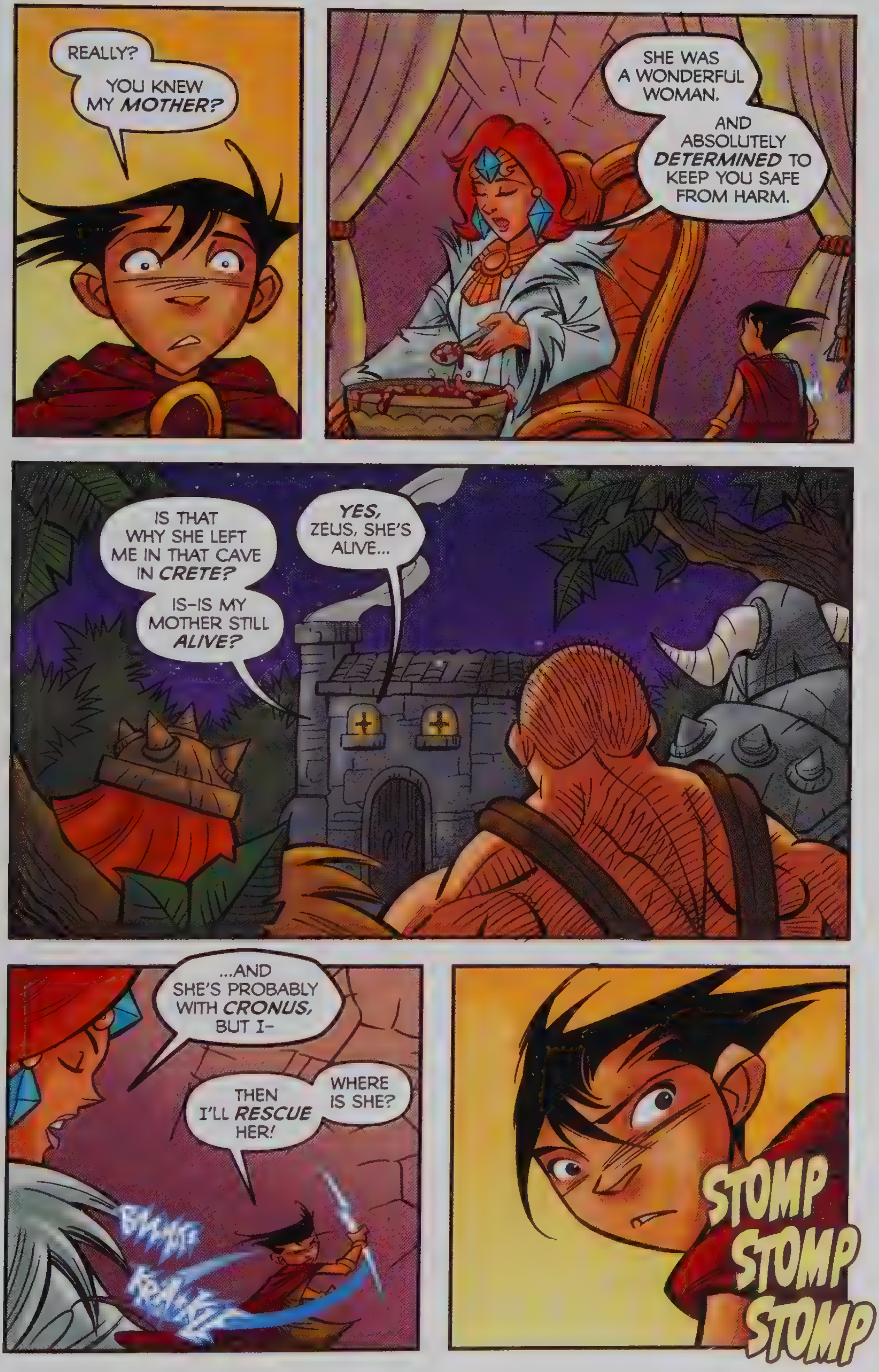

STOP RIGHT THERE!
UH-OH!
THUMP!
OR-OR WHAT?
OR YOU'LL MISS DINNER!
WE DIDN'T COOK ALL THIS FOOD FOR NOTHING!

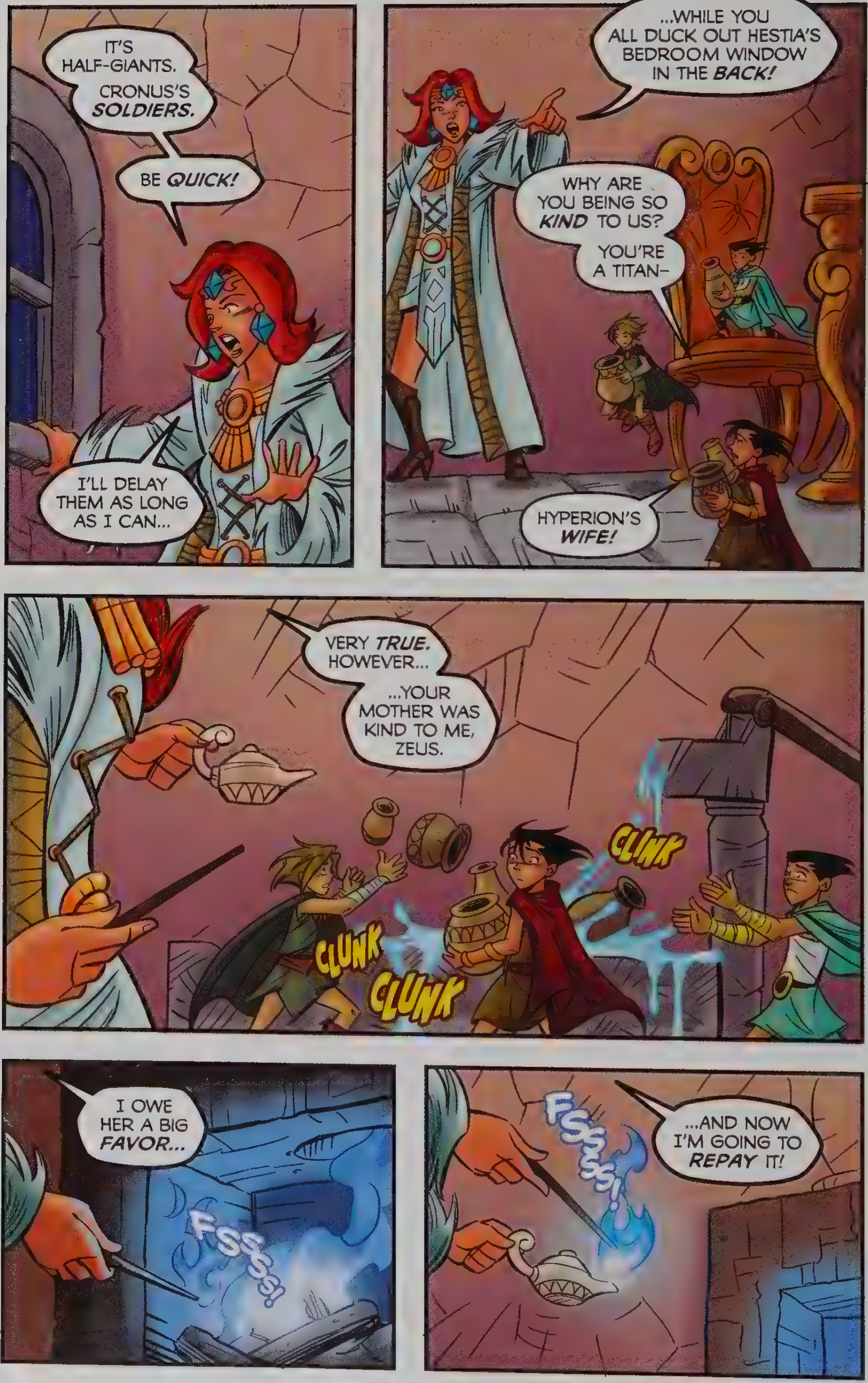
CHAPTER ELEVEN:
SOMETHING FISHY

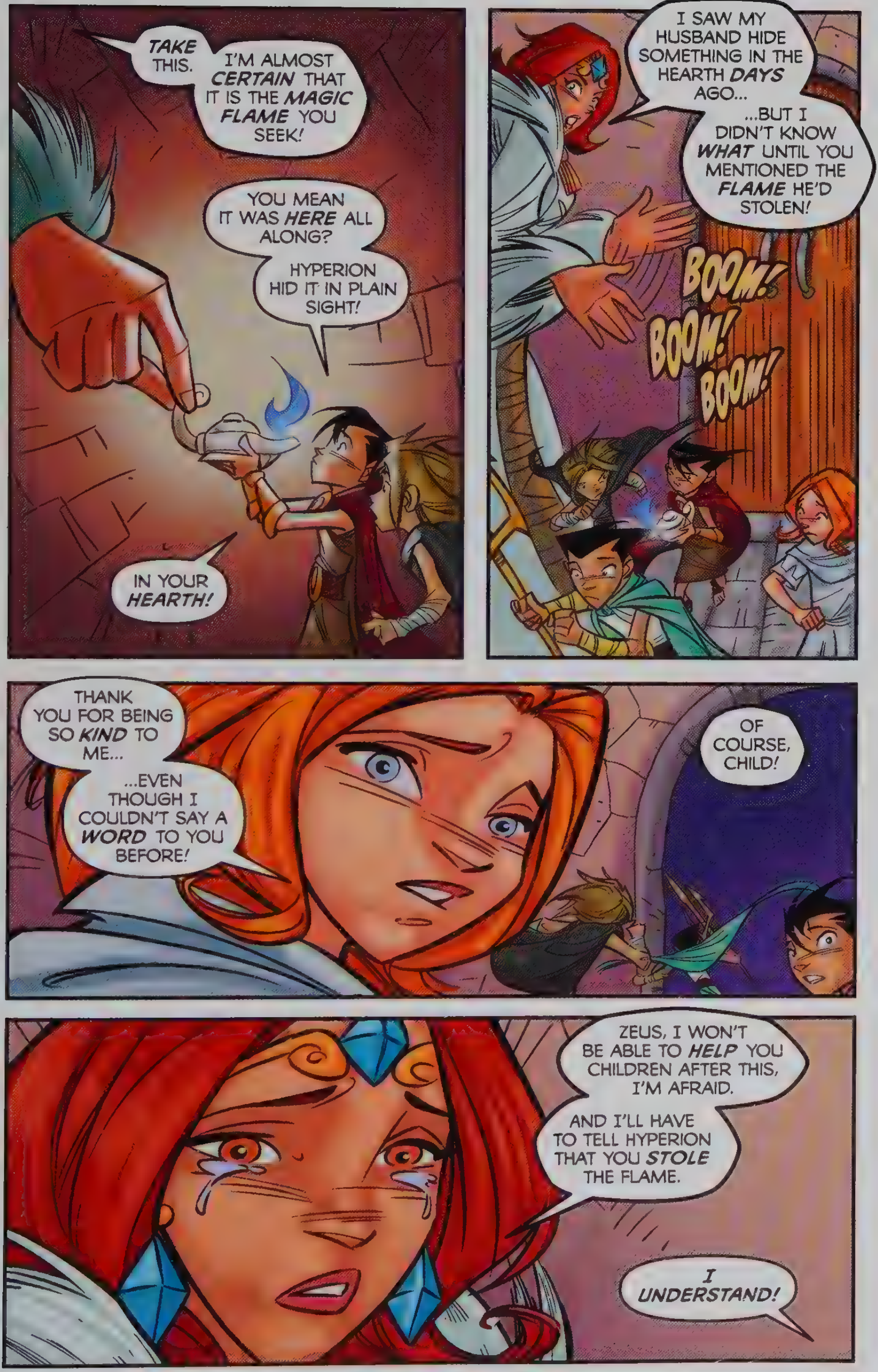

ZEUS REALIZES THAT THEIA HAS A GOOD HEART...
...AND SHE ISN'T AS TRUSTING OF HYPERION AS THEY'D FEARED.
HE AND HIS FRIENDS FIND THEMSELVES TELLING HER *EVERYTHING!*
...HYPERION *STOLE* THE MAGICAL FLAME THAT LIGHTS THE OLYMPIC TORCH...
...THE SAME ONE THE ORACLE *PYTHIA* SENT US TO FIND.
DID HE TELL YOU ABOUT THAT?
NO.
FUNNY, I *THOUGHT* I SMELLED SOMETHING *FISHY!*
SNIF SNIF
HUH?

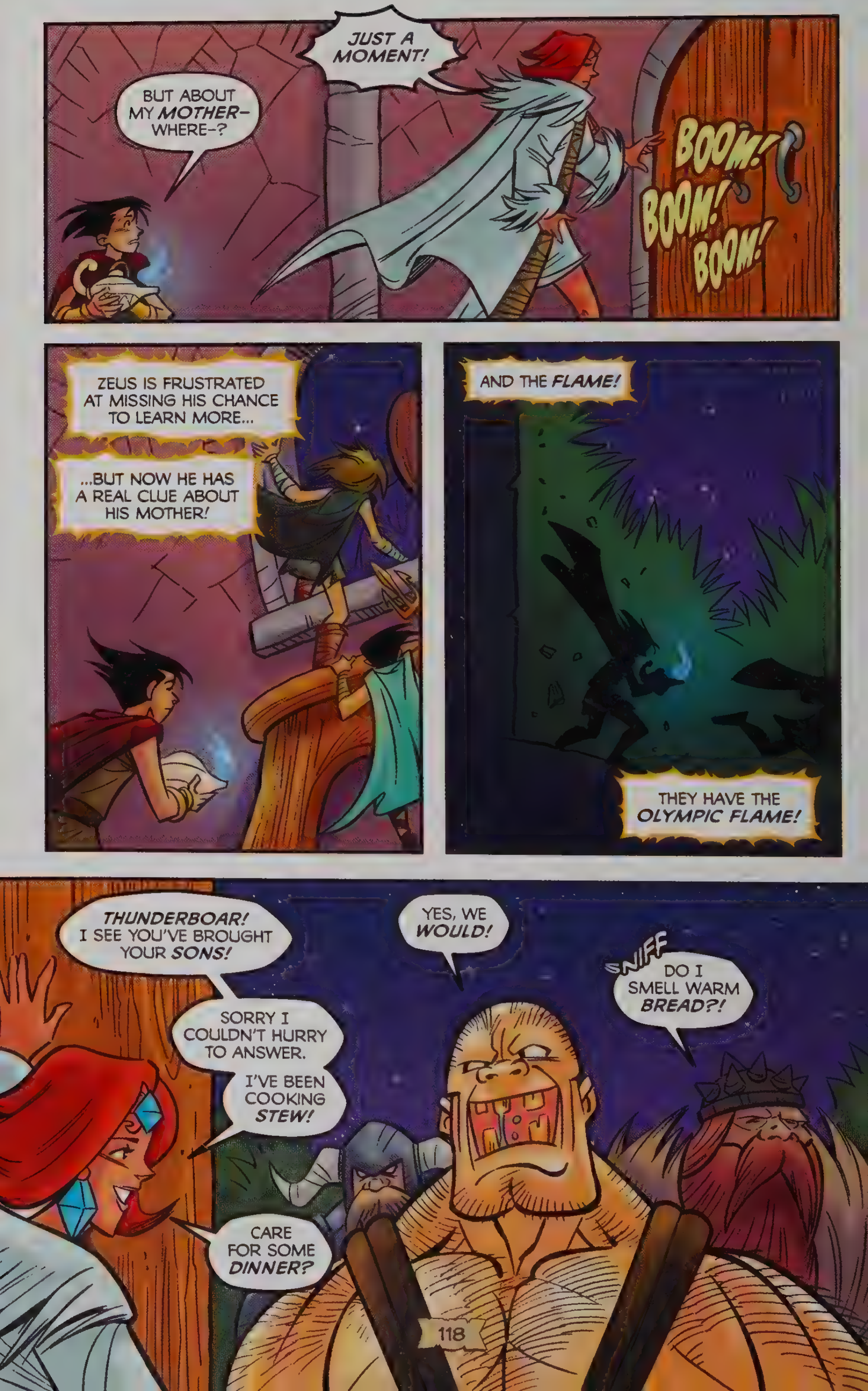

SNIFFF
IS IT *ME?* I'M SORRY.
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE I'M GOD OF THE *SEA!*
NO, DEAR. THAT WAS MERELY A FIGURE OF SPEECH!
BUT YOU'RE *NOT WRONG!*
PEEEE-YEW!
HEH. I MEANT THAT I *ALREADY* SUSPECTED MY HUSBAND WAS UP TO SOMETHING UNSAVORY.
OF COURSE, I'D BE *LYING* IF I SAID *ANY* OF YOU SMELL AS SWEET AS A ROSE, BUT YOU *HAVE* BEEN ON QUITE A JOURNEY!
YOU MENTIONED THAT YOU WANTED TO *SHOW* ME THE ITEMS YOU RECOVERED?
YES, MA'AM. *OCEANUS* STOLE THIS FROM ME WHEN I WAS A BABY...
...BUT THE MOMENT WE RECONNECTED, IT *BONDED* WITH ME!
AHH, SO IT *DID!*
GLUGLUGLUG


THANK YOU, FISH– *POSEIDON!*
AS FOR *YOU,* HADES, IT SEEMS TO ME YOUR HELMET IS PLAYING TRICKS ON MY *EYES!*
NOT EXACTLY, MA'AM...
...BUT WHEN THE RIGHTFUL KING OF THE UNDERWORLD *HOLDS* IT, THE HELM TAKES ON ITS *REAL* APPEARANCE.
YES, SO I *SEE...*
HA-HA-HA!
...AND NOW I *DON'T!*
FOR THE LONGEST TIME, I THOUGHT THIS *THUNDERBOLT* BELONGED TO A GUY NAMED *GOOSE...*
...UNTIL THE *ORACLE* REVEALED THAT IT WAS *MINE!*
AND SO IT IS!
ZEUS, I HAVE A LITTLE SECRET OF MY *OWN.*
I *MET* YOUR MOTHER ONCE!
HUH?

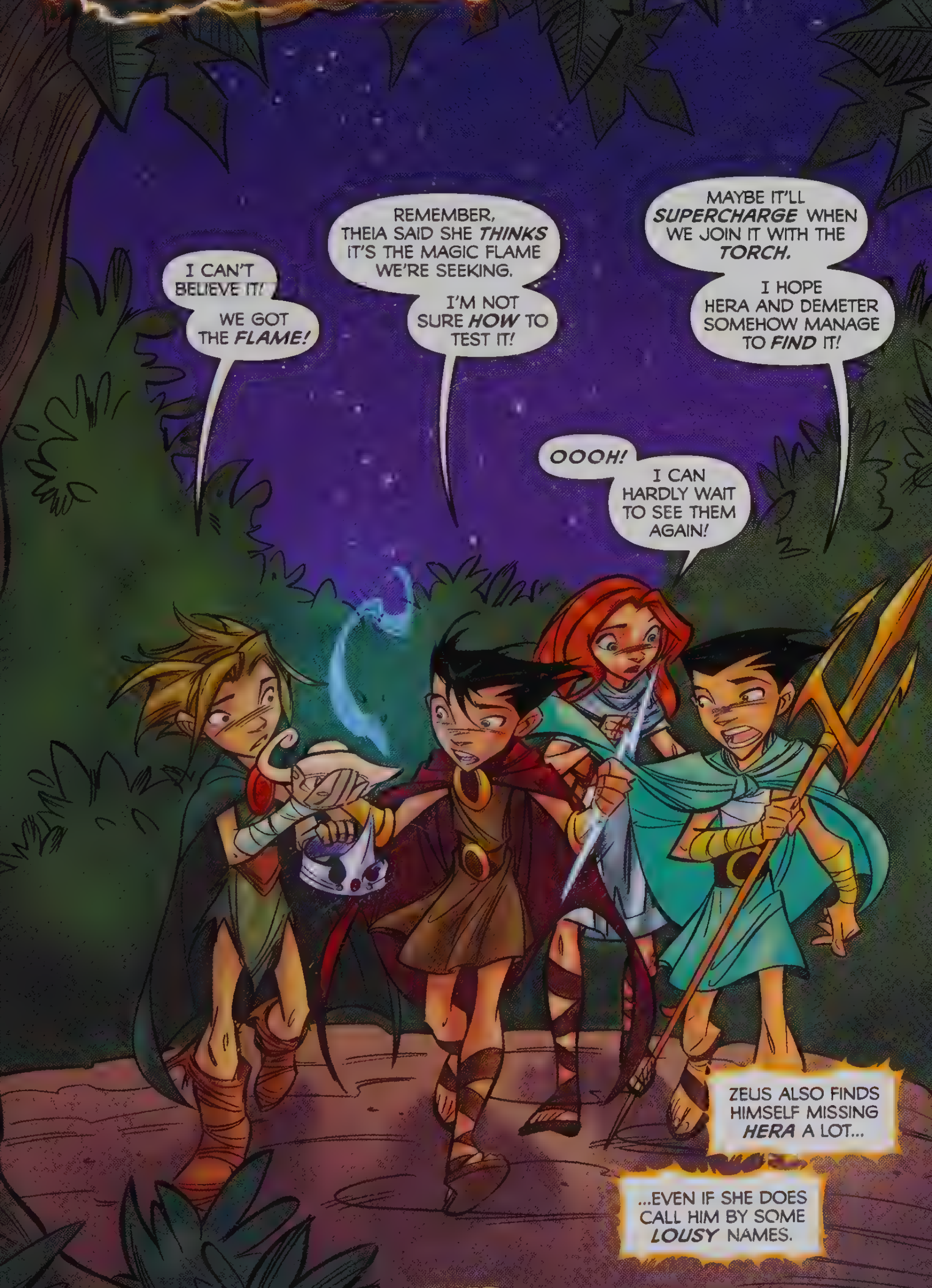

REALLY? YOU KNEW MY *MOTHER?*
SHE WAS A WONDERFUL WOMAN.
AND ABSOLUTELY ***DETERMINED*** TO KEEP YOU SAFE FROM HARM.
IS THAT WHY SHE LEFT ME IN THAT CAVE IN ***CRETE?***
IS–IS MY MOTHER STILL ***ALIVE?***
YES, ZEUS, SHE'S ALIVE...
...AND SHE'S PROBABLY WITH ***CRONUS,*** BUT I–
WHERE IS SHE?
THEN I'LL ***RESCUE*** HER!
BWASSS
KRAKKLE
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP

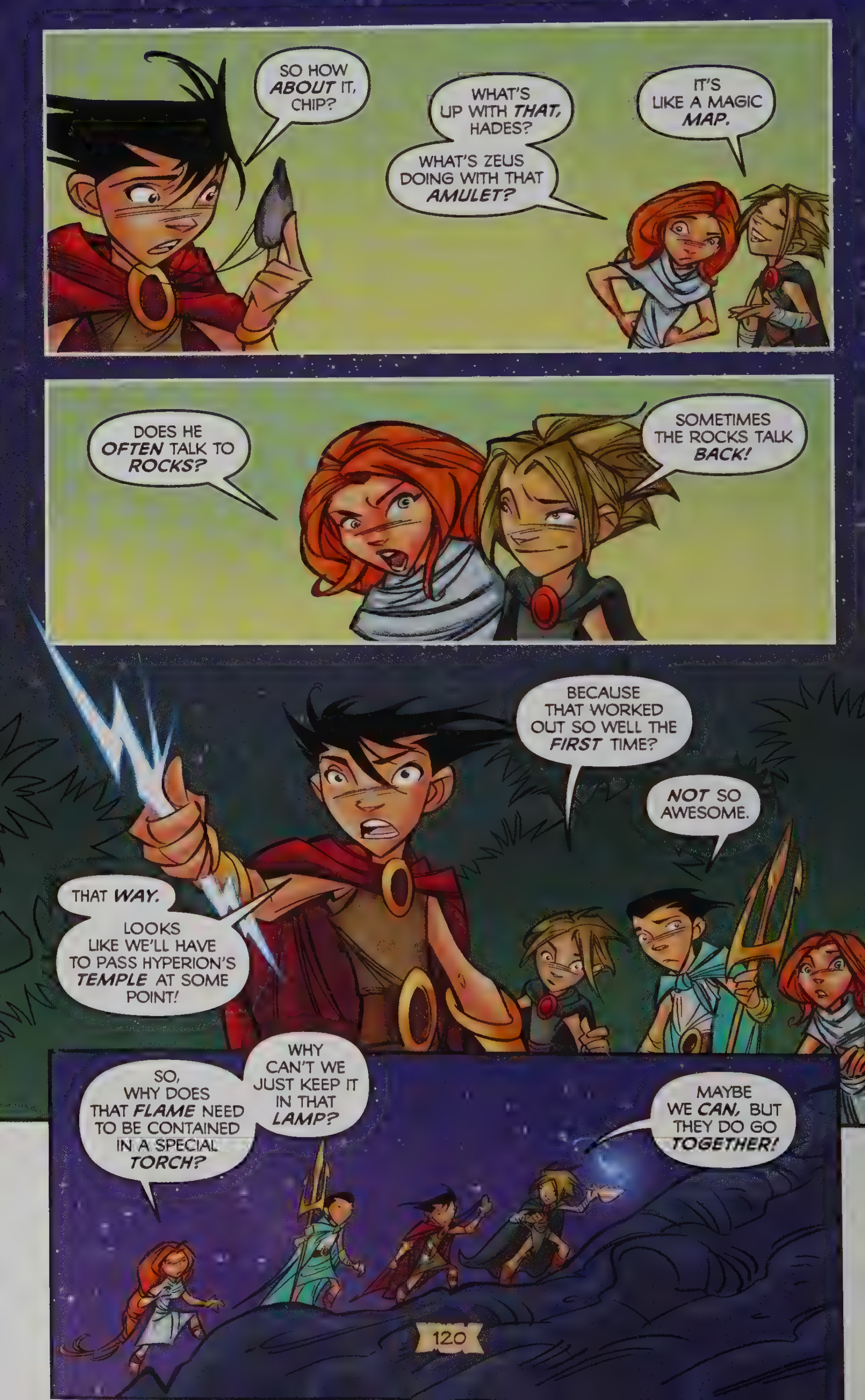

IT'S HALF-GIANTS.
CRONUS'S **SOLDIERS.**
BE ***QUICK!***
I'LL DELAY THEM AS LONG AS I CAN...
...WHILE YOU ALL DUCK OUT HESTIA'S BEDROOM WINDOW IN THE ***BACK!***
WHY ARE YOU BEING SO ***KIND*** TO US?
YOU'RE A TITAN–
HYPERION'S ***WIFE!***
VERY ***TRUE.*** HOWEVER...
...YOUR MOTHER WAS KIND TO ME, ZEUS.
CLINK
CLUNK
CLUNK
I OWE HER A BIG ***FAVOR...***
FSSSS!
FSSSS!
...AND NOW I'M GOING TO ***REPAY*** IT!

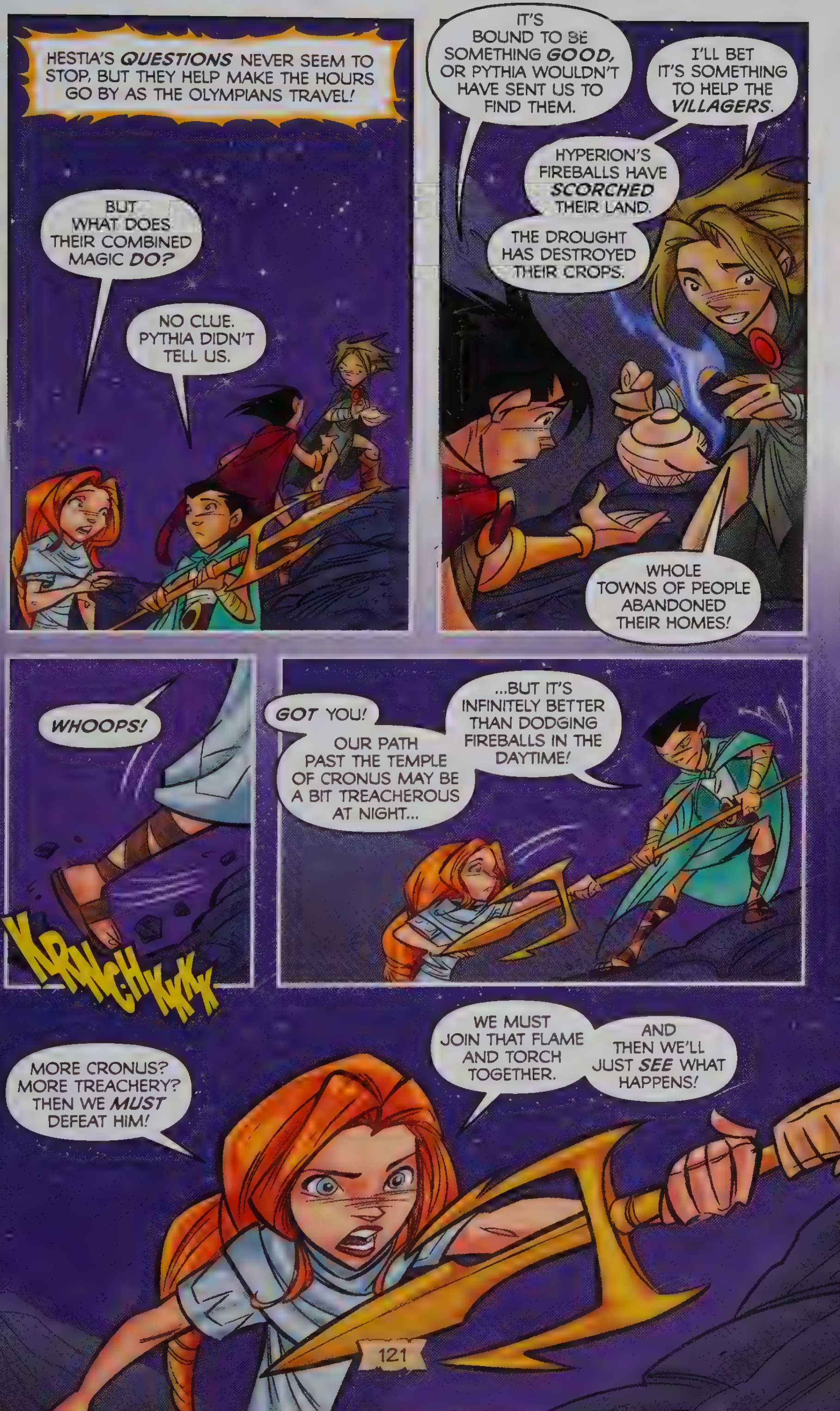

TAKE THIS.
I'M ALMOST CERTAIN THAT IT IS THE MAGIC FLAME YOU SEEK!
YOU MEAN IT WAS HERE ALL ALONG?
HYPERION HID IT IN PLAIN SIGHT!
IN YOUR HEARTH!
I SAW MY HUSBAND HIDE SOMETHING IN THE HEARTH DAYS AGO...
...BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT UNTIL YOU MENTIONED THE FLAME HE'D STOLEN!
BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!
THANK YOU FOR BEING SO KIND TO ME...
...EVEN THOUGH I COULDN'T SAY A WORD TO YOU BEFORE!
OF COURSE, CHILD!
ZEUS, I WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP YOU CHILDREN AFTER THIS, I'M AFRAID.
AND I'LL HAVE TO TELL HYPERION THAT YOU STOLE THE FLAME.
I UNDERSTAND!

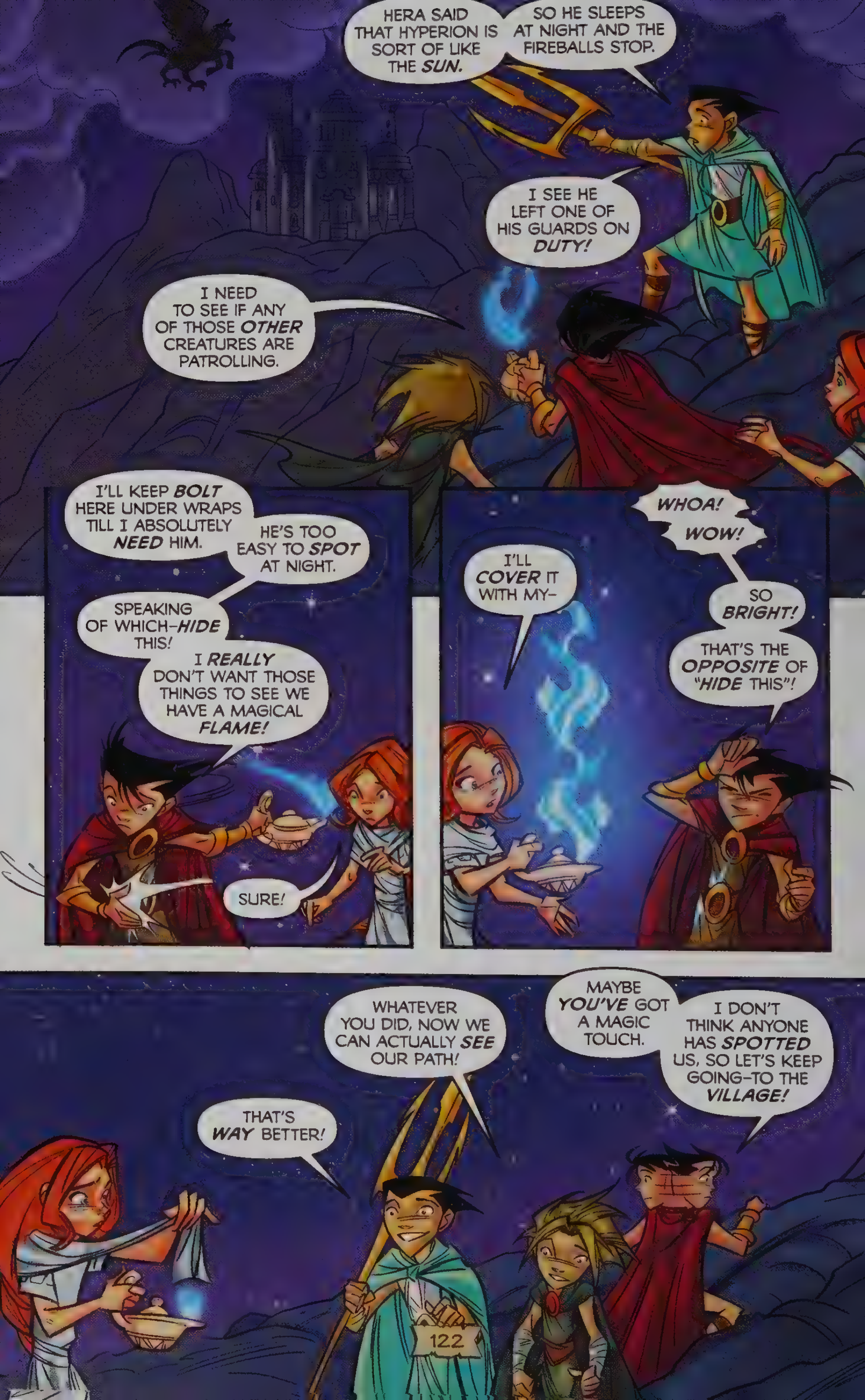

BUT ABOUT MY *MOTHER*– WHERE–?
JUST A MOMENT!
BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!
ZEUS IS FRUSTRATED AT MISSING HIS CHANCE TO LEARN MORE...
...BUT NOW HE HAS A REAL CLUE ABOUT HIS MOTHER!
AND THE *FLAME!*
THEY HAVE THE *OLYMPIC FLAME!*
THUNDERBOAR! I SEE YOU'VE BROUGHT YOUR *SONS!*
SORRY I COULDN'T HURRY TO ANSWER.
I'VE BEEN COOKING *STEW!*
CARE FOR SOME *DINNER?*
YES, WE *WOULD!*
SNIFF
DO I SMELL WARM *BREAD?!*

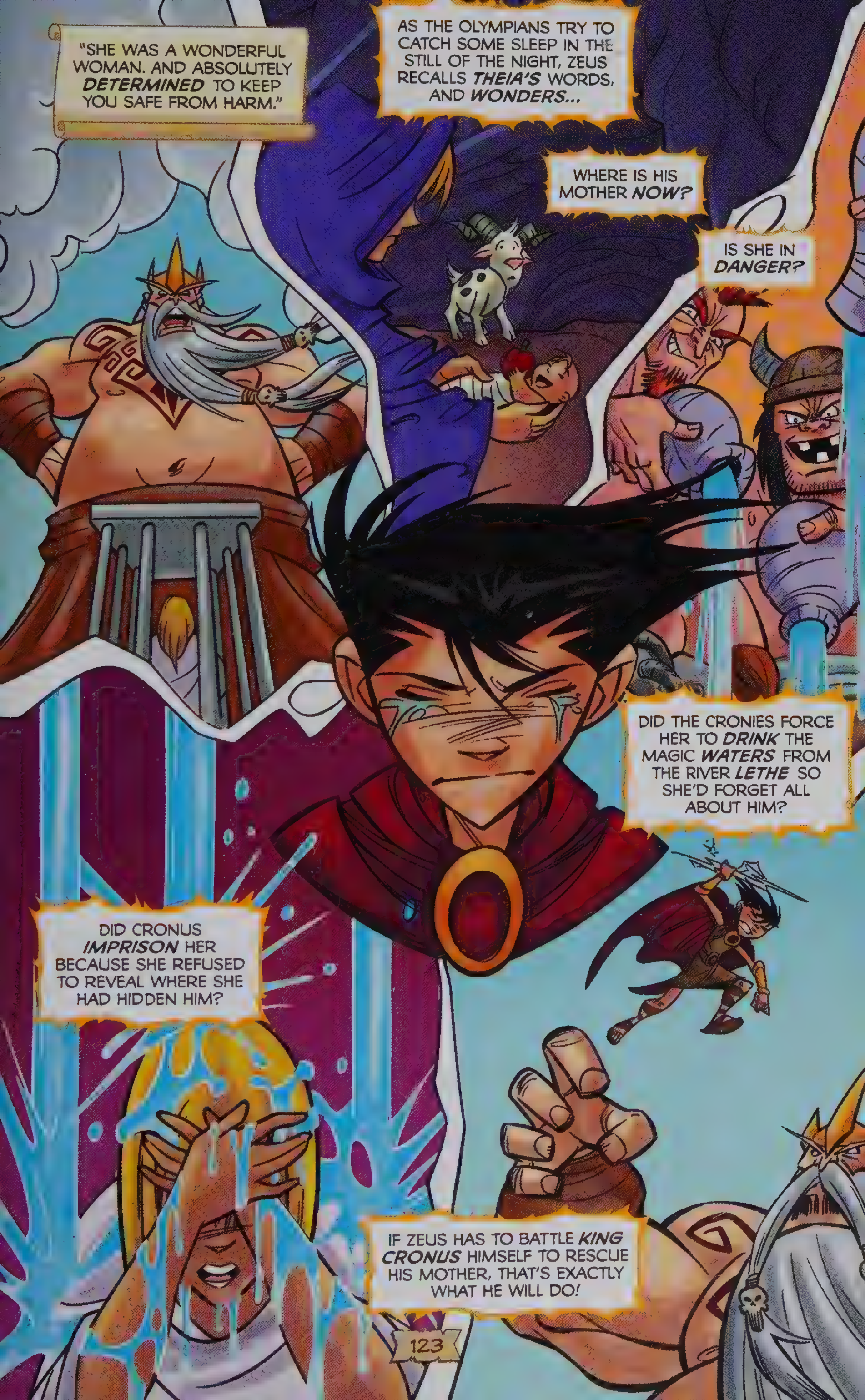
CHAPTER TWELVE:
THE JOURNEY BACK

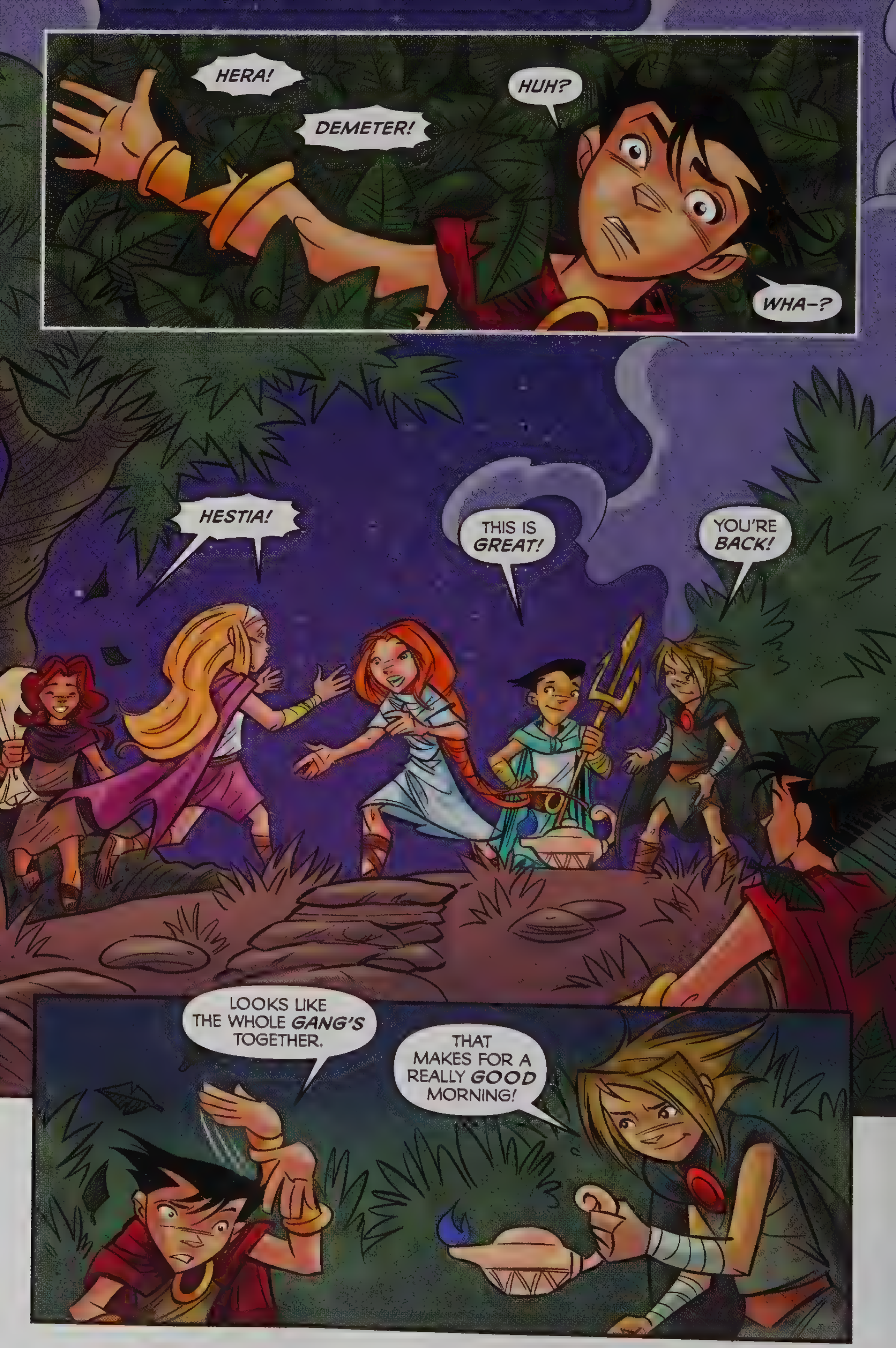

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
WE GOT THE *FLAME!*
REMEMBER, THEIA SAID SHE *THINKS* IT'S THE MAGIC FLAME WE'RE SEEKING.
I'M NOT SURE *HOW* TO TEST IT!
MAYBE IT'LL *SUPERCHARGE* WHEN WE JOIN IT WITH THE *TORCH.*
I HOPE HERA AND DEMETER SOMEHOW MANAGE TO *FIND* IT!
OOOH!
I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE THEM AGAIN!
ZEUS ALSO FINDS HIMSELF MISSING *HERA* A LOT...
...EVEN IF SHE DOES CALL HIM BY SOME *LOUSY* NAMES.

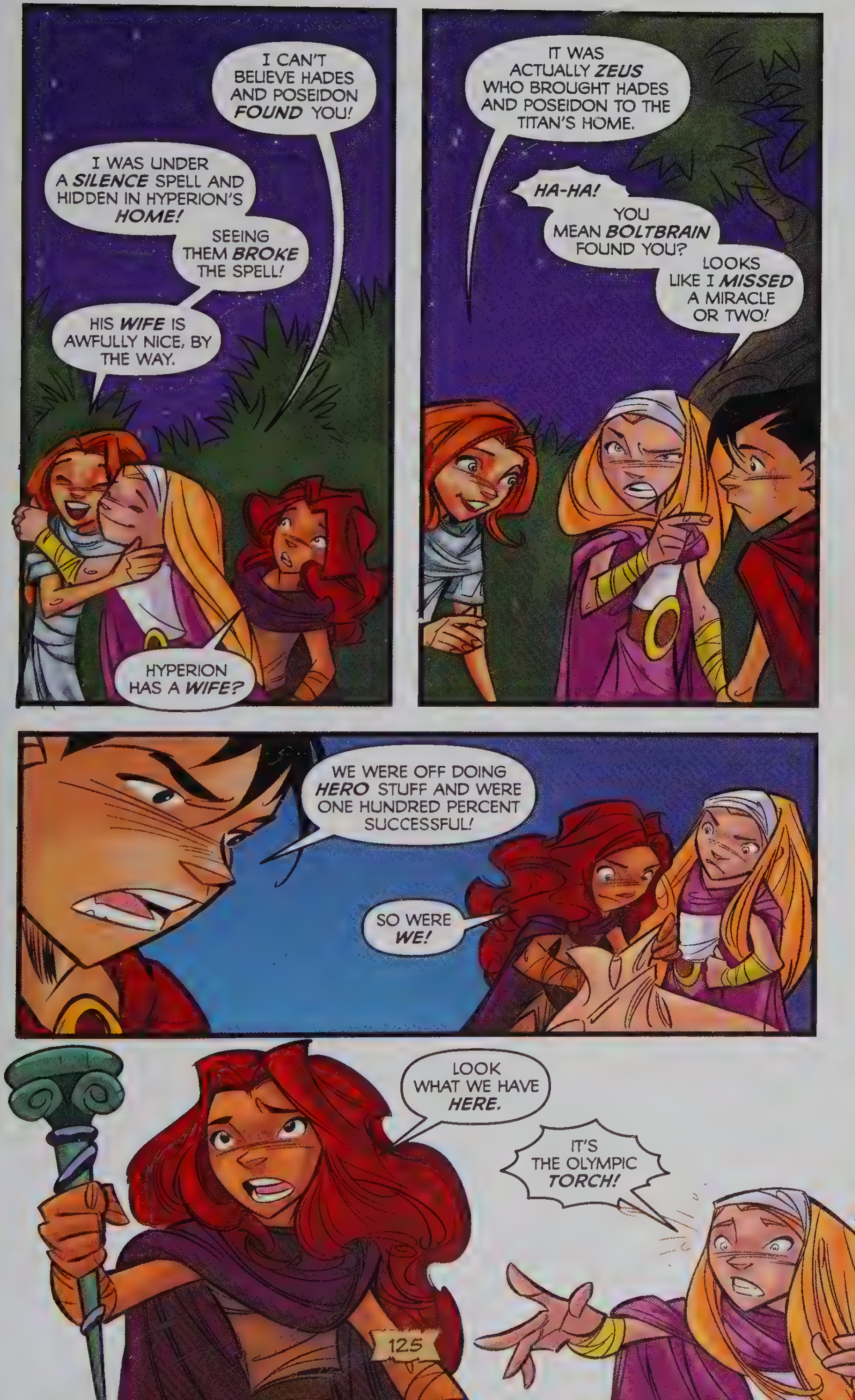

SO HOW *ABOUT* IT, CHIP?
WHAT'S UP WITH *THAT,* HADES?
WHAT'S ZEUS DOING WITH THAT *AMULET?*
IT'S LIKE A MAGIC *MAP.*
DOES HE *OFTEN* TALK TO *ROCKS?*
SOMETIMES THE ROCKS TALK *BACK!*
THAT *WAY.*
LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO PASS HYPERION'S *TEMPLE* AT SOME POINT!
BECAUSE THAT WORKED OUT SO WELL THE *FIRST* TIME?
NOT SO AWESOME.
SO, WHY DOES THAT *FLAME* NEED TO BE CONTAINED IN A SPECIAL *TORCH?*
WHY CAN'T WE JUST KEEP IT IN THAT *LAMP?*
MAYBE WE *CAN,* BUT THEY DO GO *TOGETHER!*

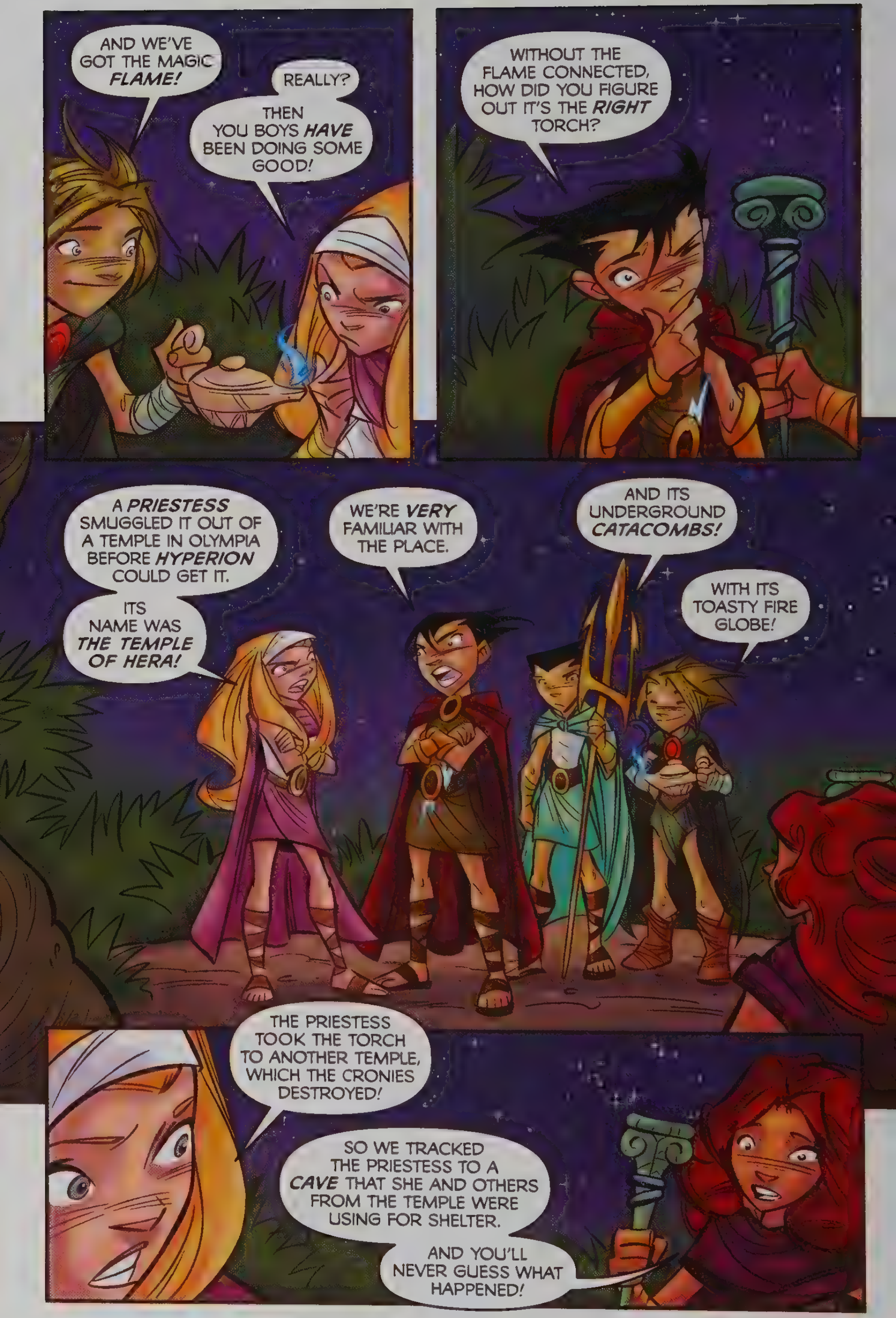

HESTIA'S *QUESTIONS* NEVER SEEM TO STOP, BUT THEY HELP MAKE THE HOURS GO BY AS THE OLYMPIANS TRAVEL!
BUT WHAT DOES THEIR COMBINED MAGIC *DO?*
NO CLUE. PYTHIA DIDN'T TELL US.
IT'S BOUND TO BE SOMETHING *GOOD,* OR PYTHIA WOULDN'T HAVE SENT US TO FIND THEM.
I'LL BET IT'S SOMETHING TO HELP THE *VILLAGERS.*
HYPERION'S FIREBALLS HAVE *SCORCHED* THEIR LAND.
THE DROUGHT HAS DESTROYED THEIR CROPS.
WHOLE TOWNS OF PEOPLE ABANDONED THEIR HOMES!
WHOOPS!
KRNCHKKKK
GOT YOU!
OUR PATH PAST THE TEMPLE OF CRONUS MAY BE A BIT TREACHEROUS AT NIGHT...
...BUT IT'S INFINITELY BETTER THAN DODGING FIREBALLS IN THE DAYTIME!
MORE CRONUS? MORE TREACHERY? THEN WE *MUST* DEFEAT HIM!
WE MUST JOIN THAT FLAME AND TORCH TOGETHER.
AND THEN WE'LL JUST *SEE* WHAT HAPPENS!

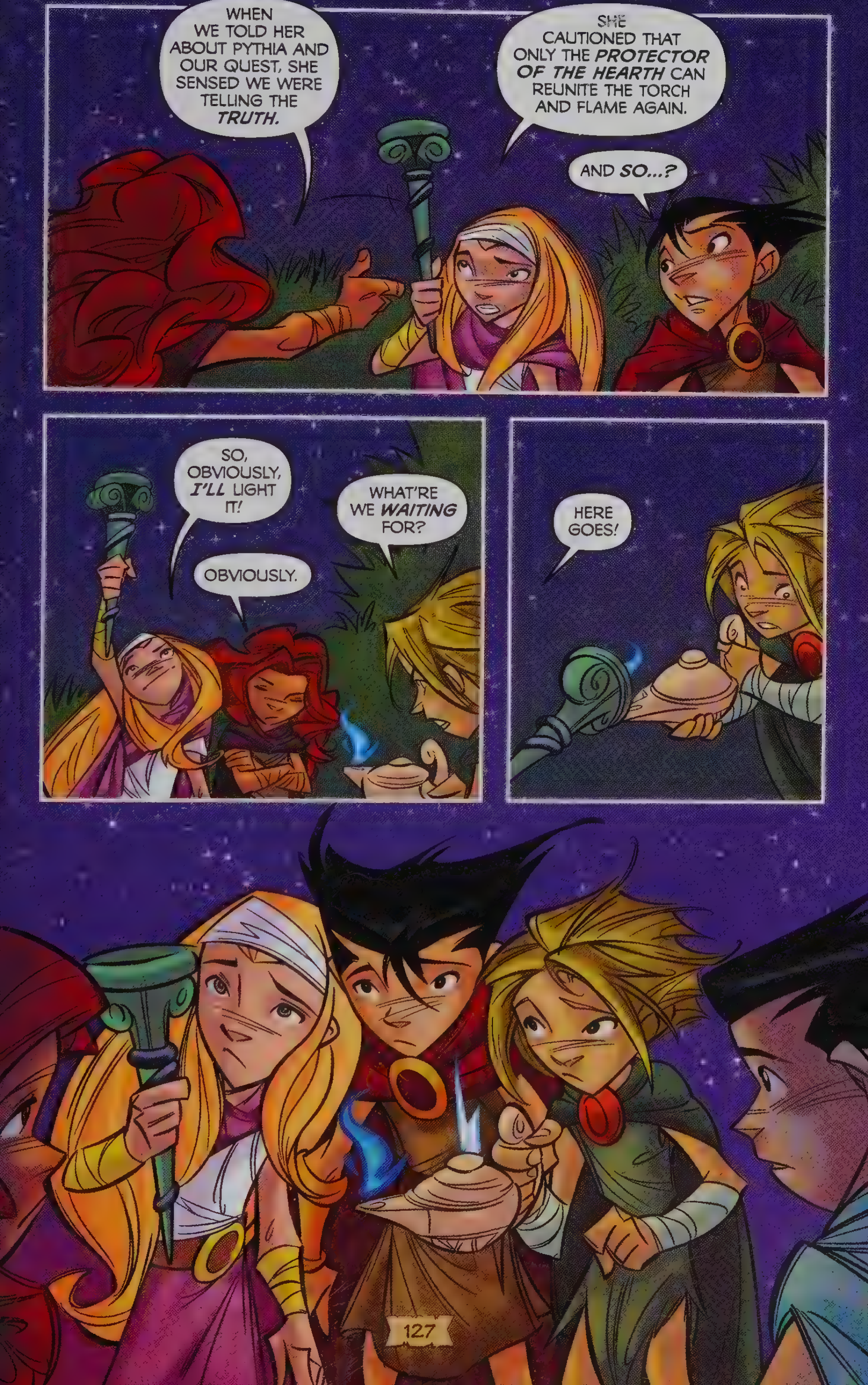

HERA SAID THAT HYPERION IS SORT OF LIKE THE *SUN.*
SO HE SLEEPS AT NIGHT AND THE FIREBALLS STOP.
I SEE HE LEFT ONE OF HIS GUARDS ON *DUTY!*
I NEED TO SEE IF ANY OF THOSE *OTHER* CREATURES ARE PATROLLING.
I'LL KEEP ***BOLT*** HERE UNDER WRAPS TILL I ABSOLUTELY ***NEED*** HIM.
HE'S TOO EASY TO ***SPOT*** AT NIGHT.
SPEAKING OF WHICH–***HIDE*** THIS!
I ***REALLY*** DON'T WANT THOSE THINGS TO SEE WE HAVE A MAGICAL ***FLAME!***
SURE!
I'LL ***COVER*** IT WITH MY–
WHOA!
WOW!
SO ***BRIGHT!***
THAT'S THE ***OPPOSITE*** OF "***HIDE*** THIS"!
THAT'S ***WAY*** BETTER!
WHATEVER YOU DID, NOW WE CAN ACTUALLY ***SEE*** OUR PATH!
MAYBE ***YOU'VE*** GOT A MAGIC TOUCH.
I DON'T THINK ANYONE HAS ***SPOTTED*** US, SO LET'S KEEP GOING–TO THE ***VILLAGE!***

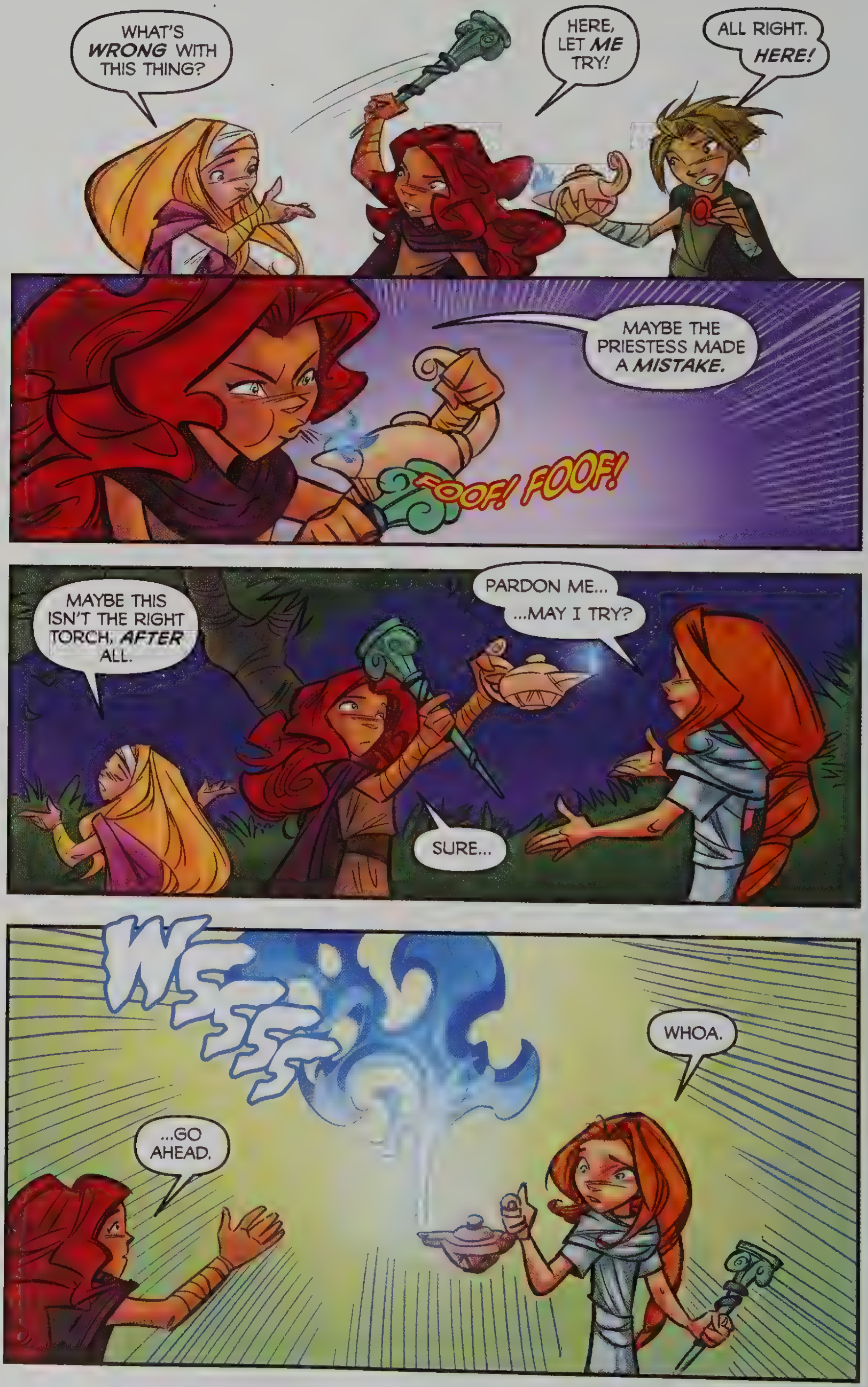

"SHE WAS A WONDERFUL WOMAN. AND ABSOLUTELY *DETERMINED* TO KEEP YOU SAFE FROM HARM."
AS THE OLYMPIANS TRY TO CATCH SOME SLEEP IN THE STILL OF THE NIGHT, ZEUS RECALLS *THEIA'S* WORDS, AND *WONDERS...*
WHERE IS HIS MOTHER *NOW?*
IS SHE IN *DANGER?*
DID THE CRONIES FORCE HER TO *DRINK* THE MAGIC *WATERS* FROM THE RIVER *LETHE* SO SHE'D FORGET ALL ABOUT HIM?
DID CRONUS *IMPRISON* HER BECAUSE SHE REFUSED TO REVEAL WHERE SHE HAD HIDDEN HIM?
IF ZEUS HAS TO BATTLE *KING CRONUS* HIMSELF TO RESCUE HIS MOTHER, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HE WILL DO!

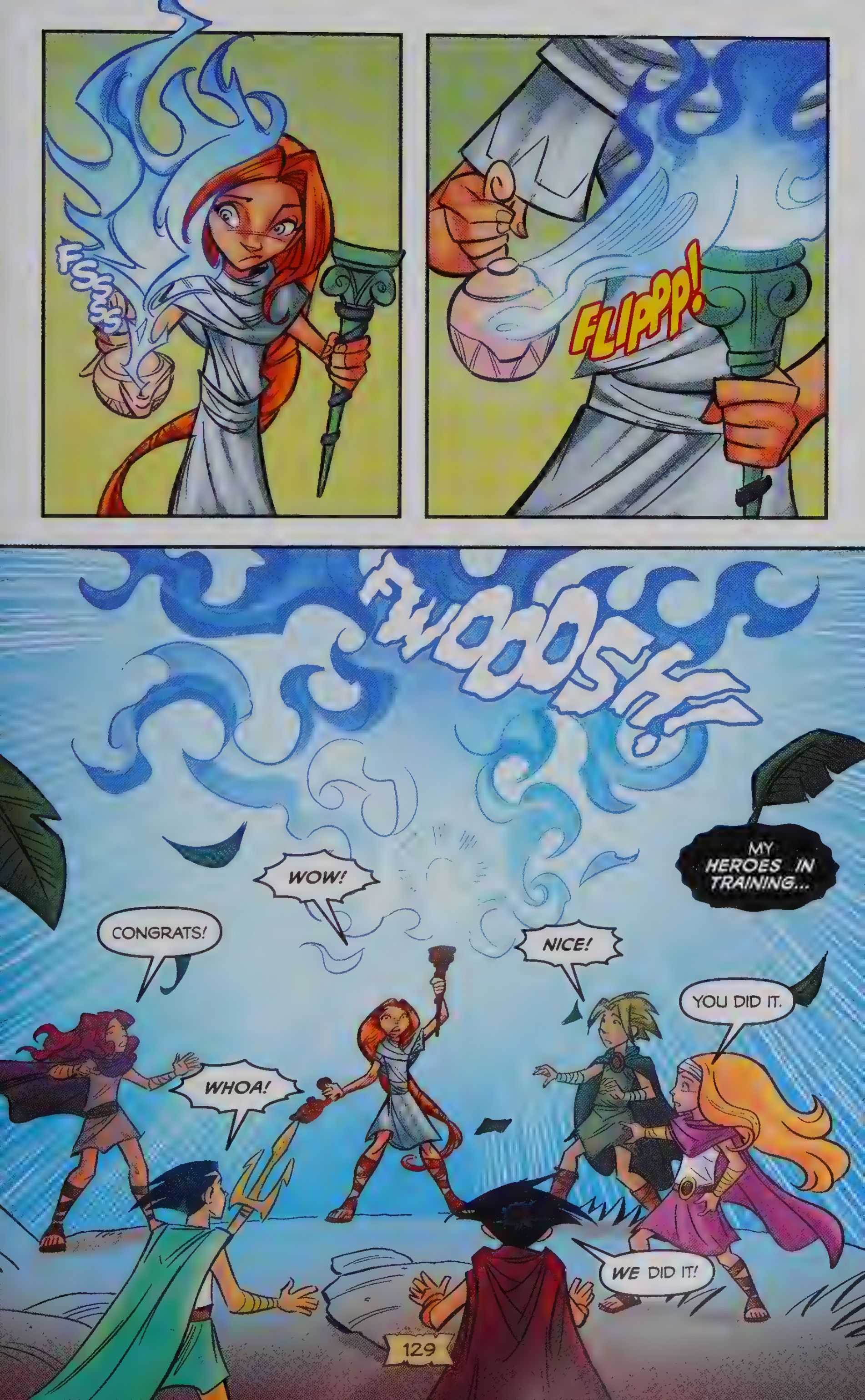

HERA!
DEMETER!
HUH?
WHA–?
HESTIA!
THIS IS *GREAT!*
YOU'RE *BACK!*
LOOKS LIKE THE WHOLE *GANG'S* TOGETHER.
THAT MAKES FOR A REALLY *GOOD* MORNING!


I CAN'T BELIEVE HADES AND POSEIDON *FOUND* YOU!
I WAS UNDER A *SILENCE* SPELL AND HIDDEN IN HYPERION'S *HOME!*
SEEING THEM *BROKE* THE SPELL!
HIS *WIFE* IS AWFULLY NICE, BY THE WAY.
HYPERION HAS A *WIFE?*
IT WAS ACTUALLY *ZEUS* WHO BROUGHT HADES AND POSEIDON TO THE TITAN'S HOME.
HA-HA!
YOU MEAN *BOLTBRAIN* FOUND YOU?
LOOKS LIKE I *MISSED* A MIRACLE OR TWO!
WE WERE OFF DOING *HERO* STUFF AND WERE ONE HUNDRED PERCENT SUCCESSFUL!
SO WERE *WE!*
LOOK WHAT WE HAVE *HERE.*
IT'S THE OLYMPIC *TORCH!*

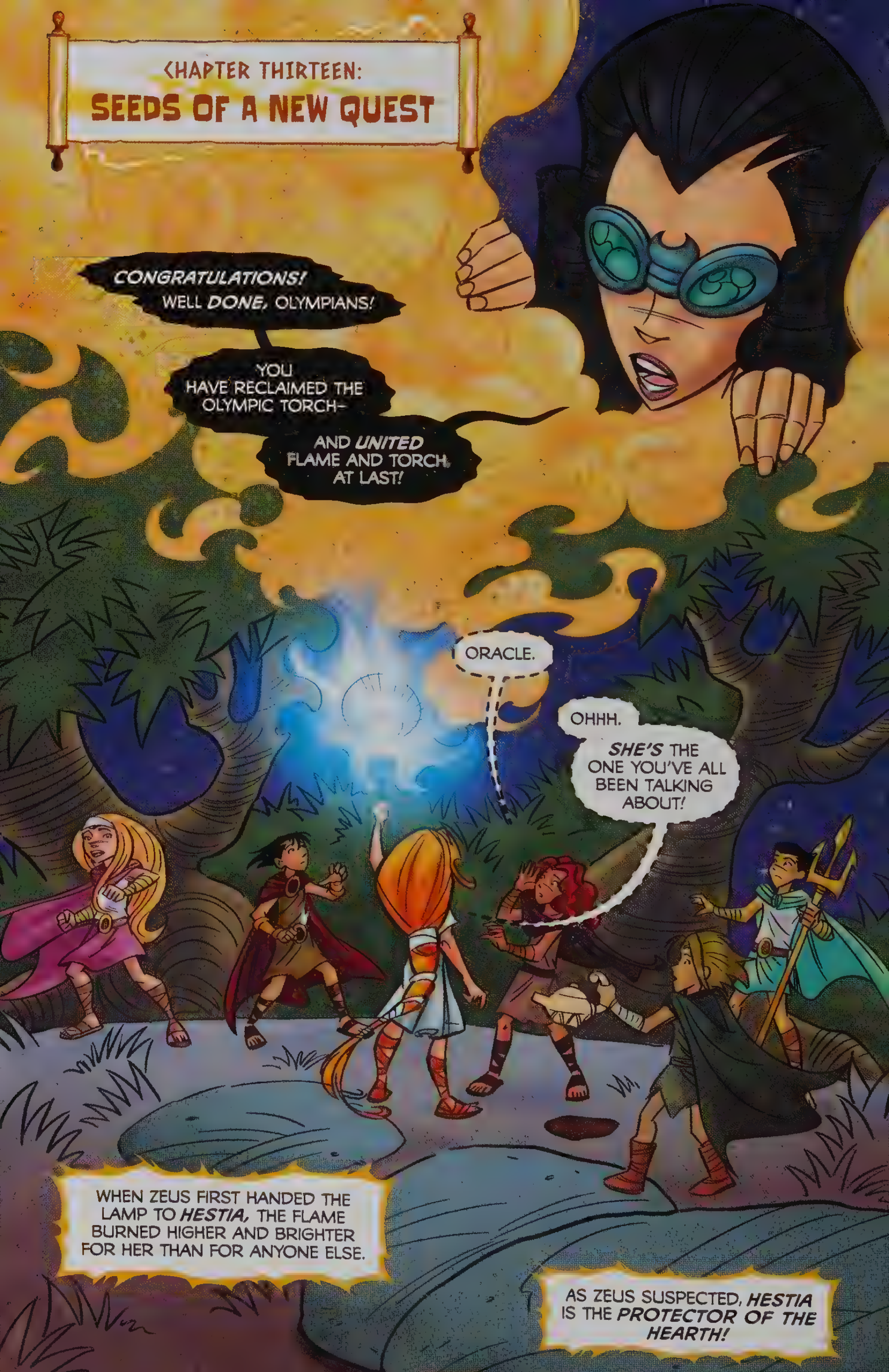

AND WE'VE GOT THE MAGIC *FLAME!*
REALLY?
THEN YOU BOYS *HAVE* BEEN DOING SOME GOOD!
WITHOUT THE FLAME CONNECTED, HOW DID YOU FIGURE OUT IT'S THE *RIGHT* TORCH?
A *PRIESTESS* SMUGGLED IT OUT OF A TEMPLE IN OLYMPIA BEFORE *HYPERION* COULD GET IT.
ITS NAME WAS *THE TEMPLE OF HERA!*
WE'RE *VERY* FAMILIAR WITH THE PLACE.
AND ITS UNDERGROUND *CATACOMBS!*
WITH ITS TOASTY FIRE GLOBE!
THE PRIESTESS TOOK THE TORCH TO ANOTHER TEMPLE, WHICH THE CRONIES DESTROYED!
SO WE TRACKED THE PRIESTESS TO A *CAVE* THAT SHE AND OTHERS FROM THE TEMPLE WERE USING FOR SHELTER.
AND YOU'LL NEVER GUESS WHAT HAPPENED!

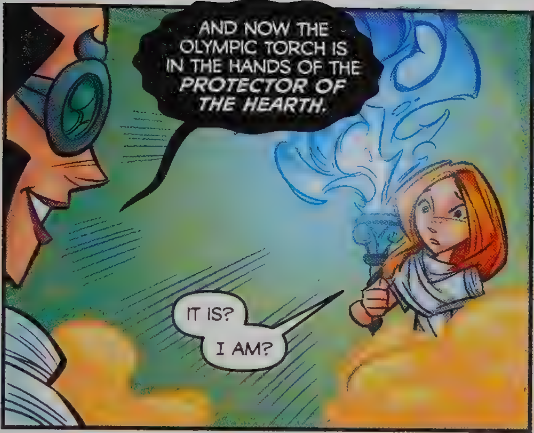

WHEN WE TOLD HER ABOUT PYTHIA AND OUR QUEST, SHE SENSED WE WERE TELLING THE *TRUTH.*
SHE CAUTIONED THAT ONLY THE ***PROTECTOR OF THE HEARTH*** CAN REUNITE THE TORCH AND FLAME AGAIN.
AND ***SO...?***
SO, OBVIOUSLY, ***I'LL*** LIGHT IT!
OBVIOUSLY.
WHAT'RE WE ***WAITING*** FOR?
HERE GOES!

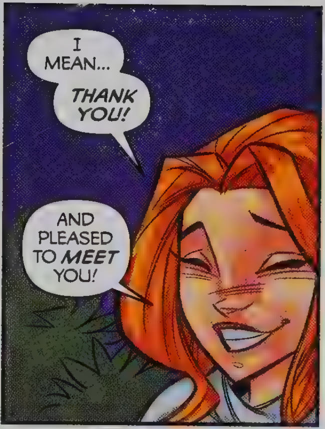

WHAT'S *WRONG* WITH THIS THING?
HERE, LET *ME* TRY!
ALL RIGHT. *HERE!*
MAYBE THE PRIESTESS MADE A *MISTAKE.*
FOOF! FOOF!
MAYBE THIS ISN'T THE RIGHT TORCH, *AFTER* ALL.
PARDON ME... ...MAY I TRY?
SURE...
WSSSS
WHOA.
...GO AHEAD.

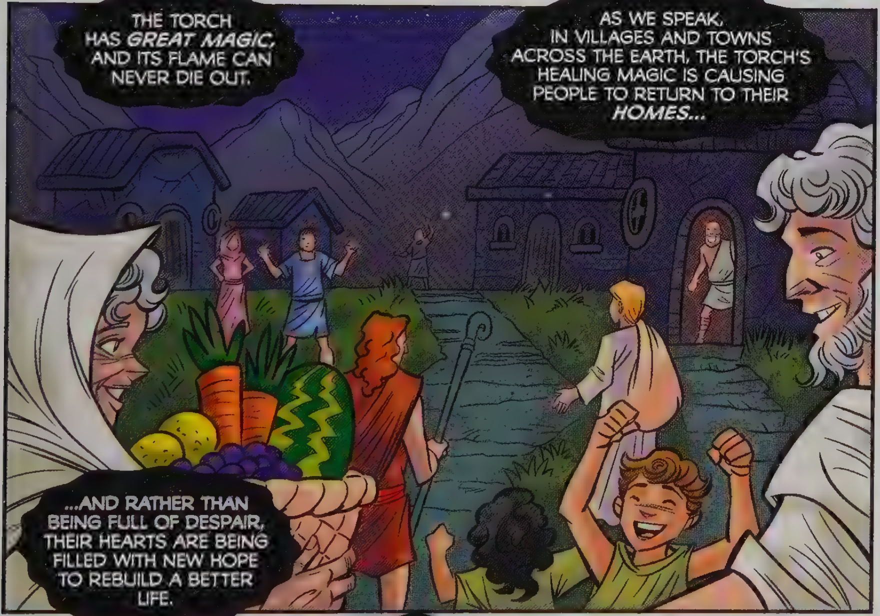

FSSSS
FLIPPP!
FWOOOSH!
CONGRATS!
WOW!
NICE!
MY HEROES IN TRAINING...
YOU DID IT.
WHOA!
WE DID IT!

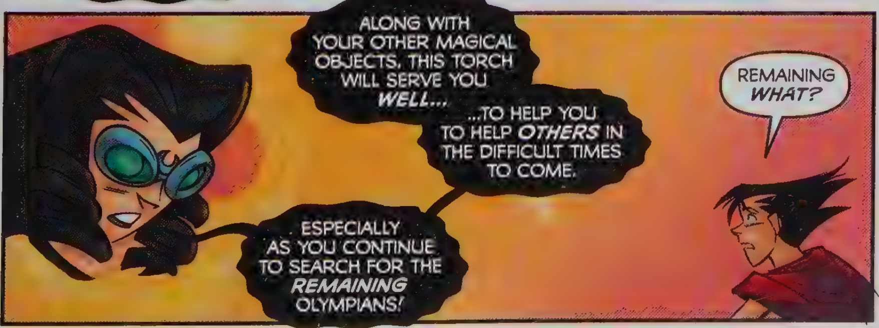
CHAPTER THIRTEEN:
SEEDS OF A NEW QUEST

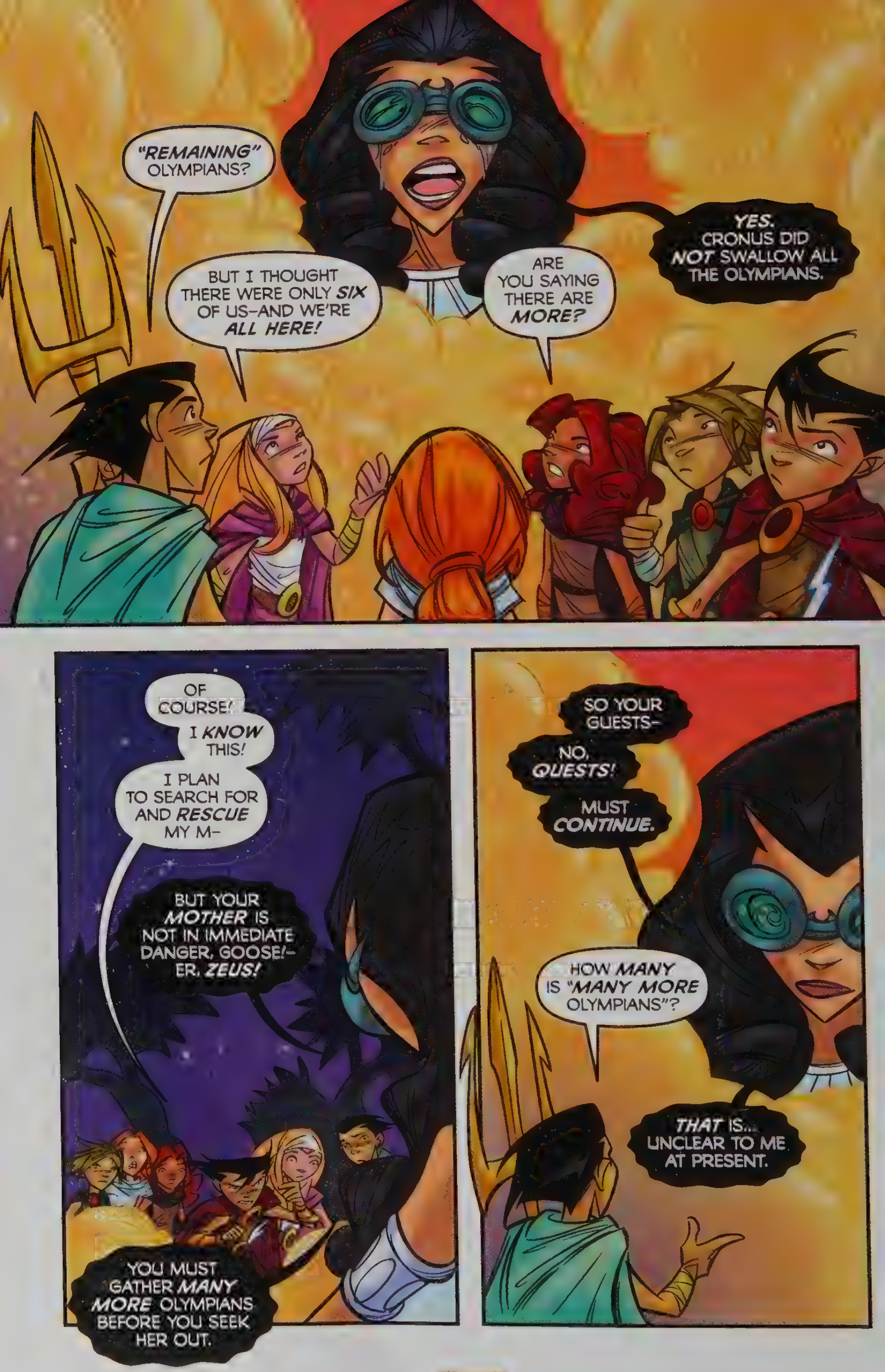

CONGRATULATIONS! WELL DONE, OLYMPIANS!
YOU HAVE RECLAIMED THE OLYMPIC TORCH—
AND UNITED FLAME AND TORCH AT LAST!
ORACLE.
OHHH.
SHE'S THE ONE YOU'VE ALL BEEN TALKING ABOUT!
WHEN ZEUS FIRST HANDED THE LAMP TO HESTIA, THE FLAME BURNED HIGHER AND BRIGHTER FOR HER THAN FOR ANYONE ELSE.
AS ZEUS SUSPECTED, HESTIA IS THE PROTECTOR OF THE HEARTH!

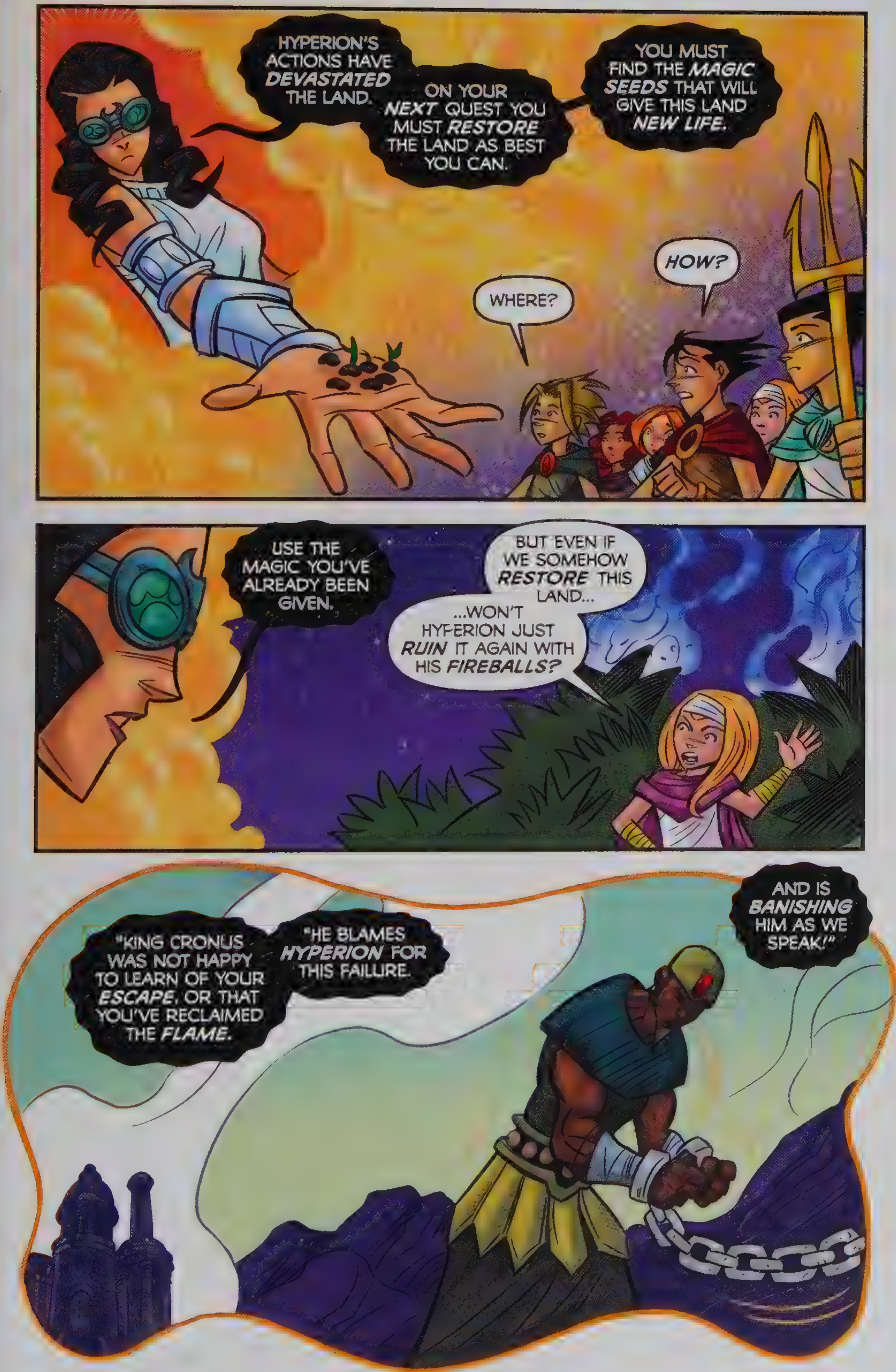

AND NOW THE OLYMPIC TORCH IS IN THE HANDS OF THE *PROTECTOR OF THE HEARTH.*
IT IS?
I AM?

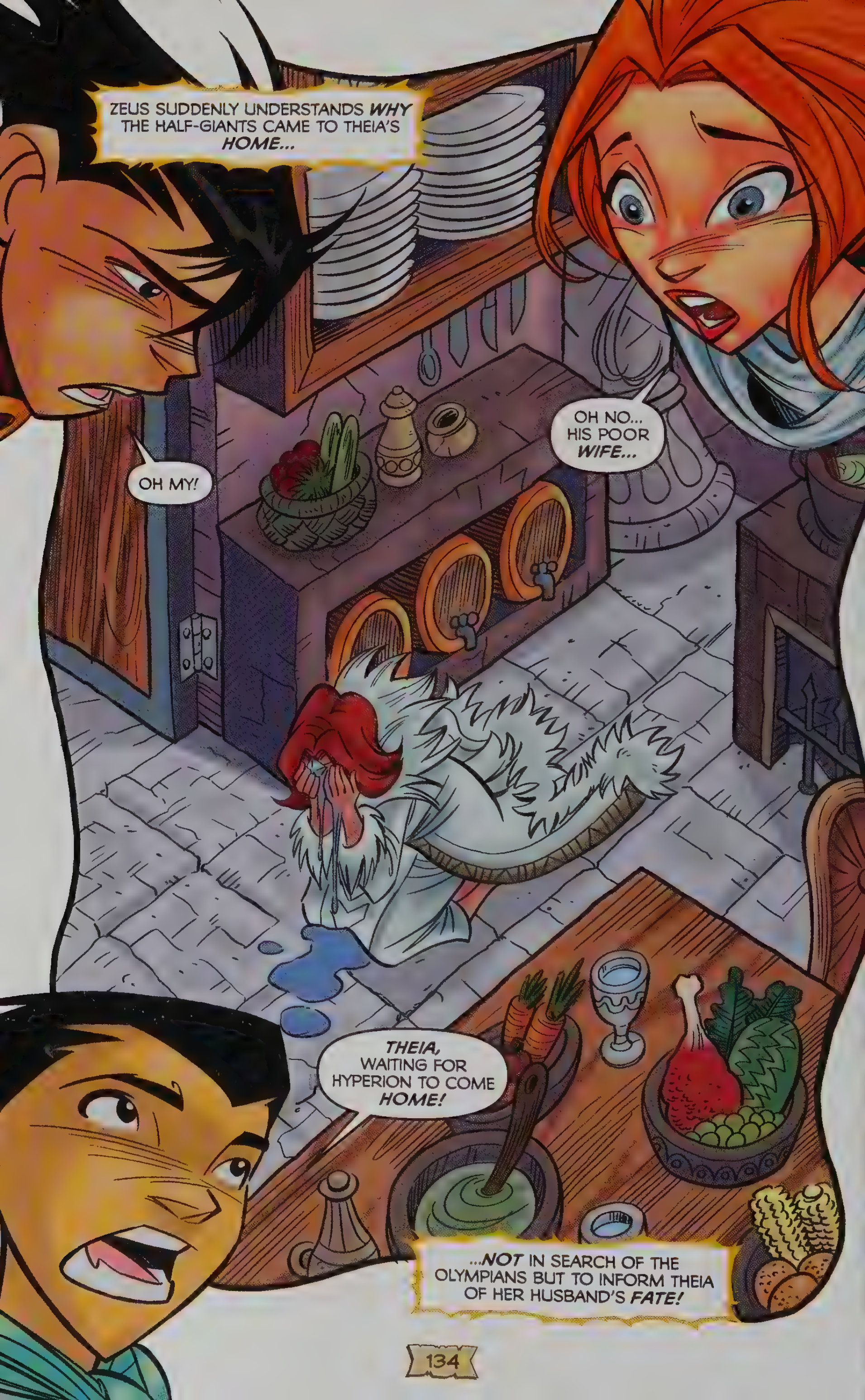

I MEAN...
THANK YOU!
AND PLEASED TO *MEET* YOU!

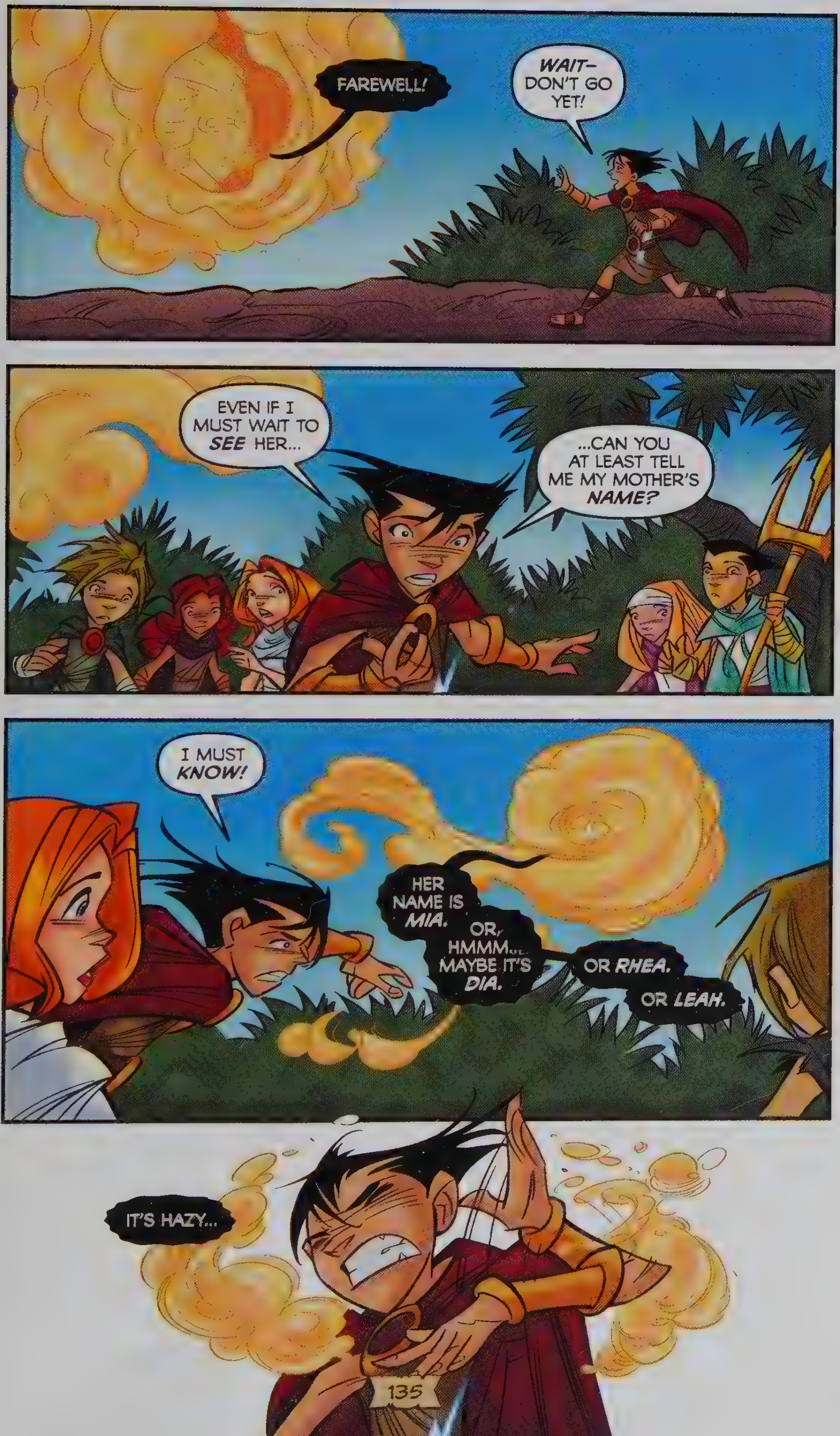

THE TORCH HAS *GREAT MAGIC,* AND ITS FLAME CAN NEVER DIE OUT.
AS WE SPEAK, IN VILLAGES AND TOWNS ACROSS THE EARTH, THE TORCH'S HEALING MAGIC IS CAUSING PEOPLE TO RETURN TO THEIR *HOMES...*
...AND RATHER THAN BEING FULL OF DESPAIR, THEIR HEARTS ARE BEING FILLED WITH NEW HOPE TO REBUILD A BETTER LIFE.

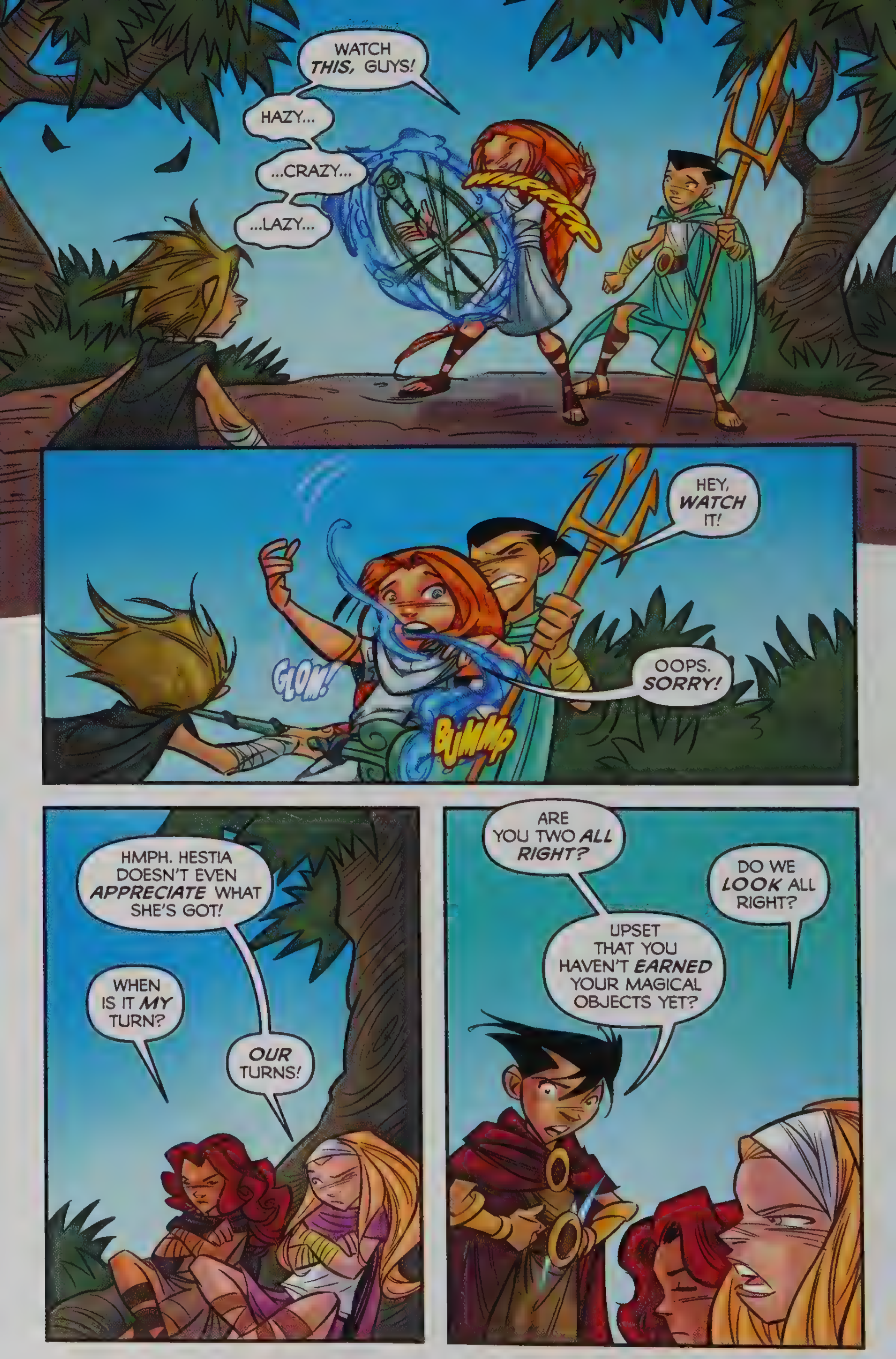

ALONG WITH YOUR OTHER MAGICAL OBJECTS, THIS TORCH WILL SERVE YOU *WELL...*
...TO HELP YOU TO HELP *OTHERS* IN THE DIFFICULT TIMES TO COME.
REMAINING *WHAT?*
ESPECIALLY AS YOU CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR THE *REMAINING* OLYMPIANS!

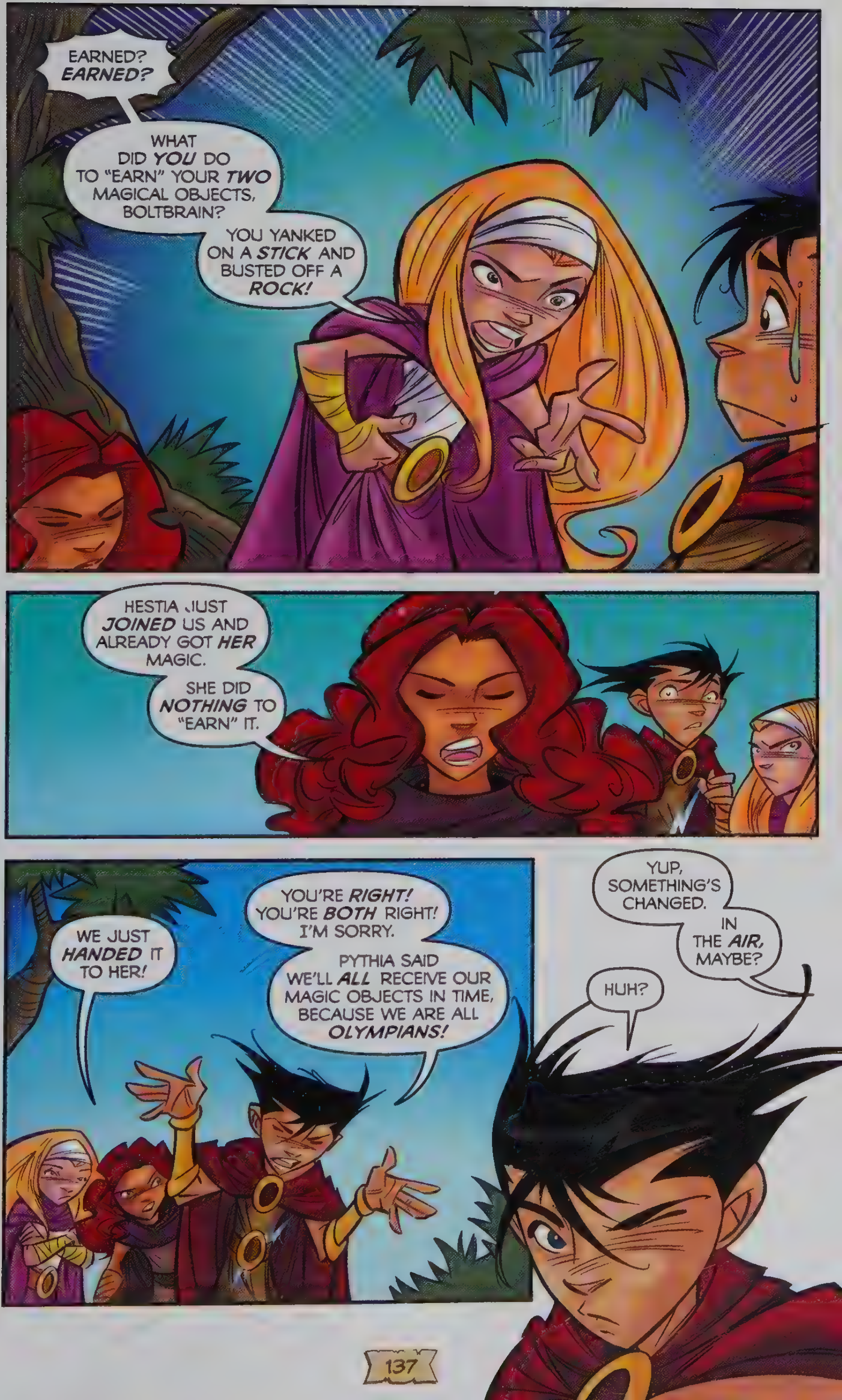

"*REMAINING*" OLYMPIANS?
BUT I THOUGHT THERE WERE ONLY *SIX* OF US–AND WE'RE *ALL HERE!*
ARE YOU SAYING THERE ARE *MORE?*
YES. CRONUS DID *NOT* SWALLOW ALL THE OLYMPIANS.
OF COURSE!
I *KNOW* THIS!
I PLAN TO SEARCH FOR AND *RESCUE* MY M–
BUT YOUR *MOTHER* IS NOT IN IMMEDIATE DANGER, GOOSE!– ER, *ZEUS!*
YOU MUST GATHER *MANY MORE* OLYMPIANS BEFORE YOU SEEK HER OUT.
SO YOUR GUESTS–
NO, *QUESTS!*
MUST *CONTINUE.*
HOW *MANY* IS "*MANY MORE* OLYMPIANS"?
THAT IS... UNCLEAR TO ME AT PRESENT.

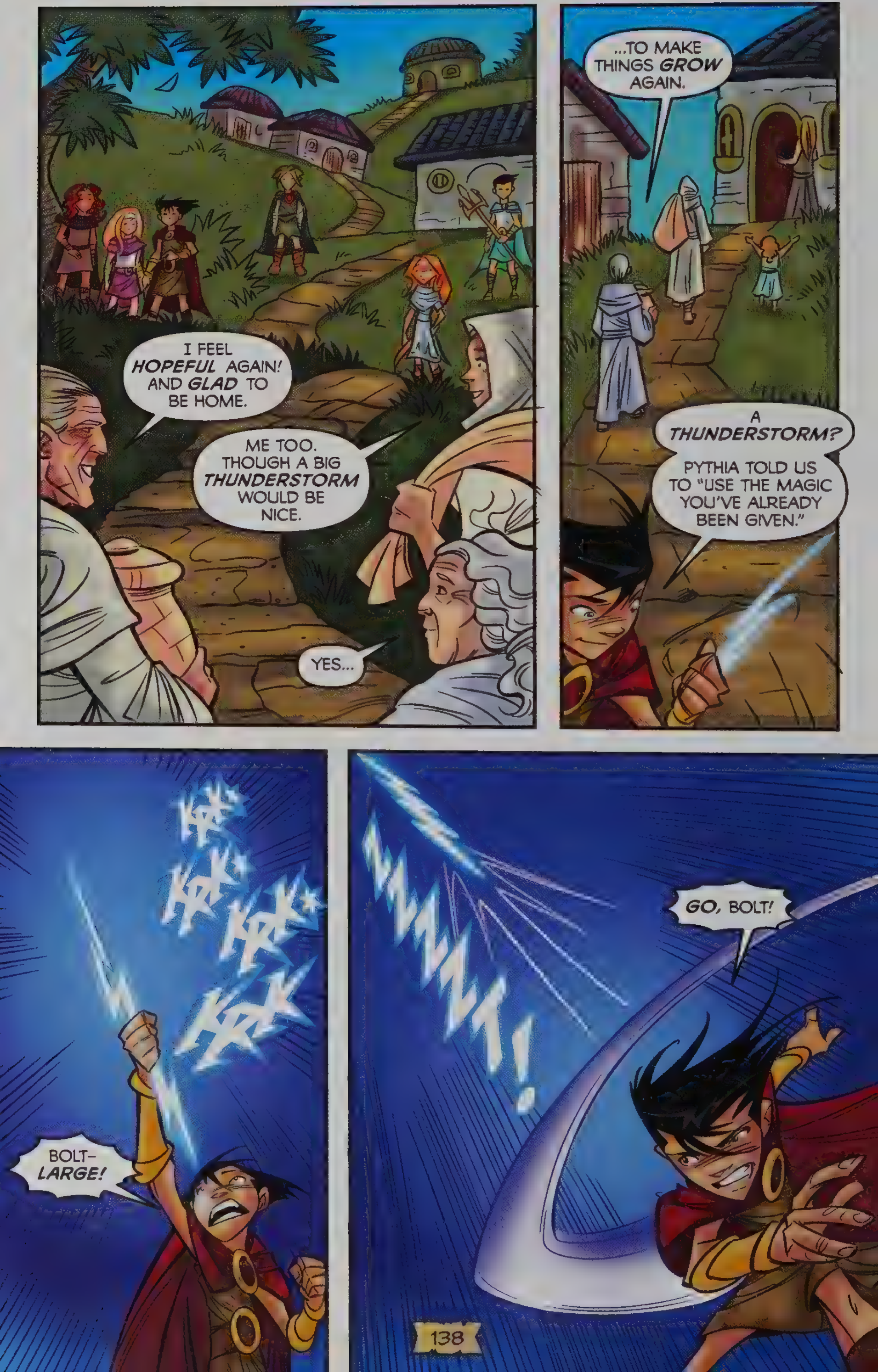

HYPERION'S ACTIONS HAVE *DEVASTATED* THE LAND.
ON YOUR *NEXT* QUEST YOU MUST *RESTORE* THE LAND AS BEST YOU CAN.
YOU MUST FIND THE *MAGIC SEEDS* THAT WILL GIVE THIS LAND *NEW LIFE.*
WHERE?
HOW?
USE THE MAGIC YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN GIVEN.
BUT EVEN IF WE SOMEHOW *RESTORE* THIS LAND...
...WON'T HYPERION JUST *RUIN* IT AGAIN WITH HIS *FIREBALLS?*
"KING CRONUS WAS NOT HAPPY TO LEARN OF YOUR *ESCAPE*, OR THAT YOU'VE RECLAIMED THE *FLAME*.
"HE BLAMES *HYPERION* FOR THIS FAILURE.
AND IS *BANISHING* HIM AS WE SPEAK!"

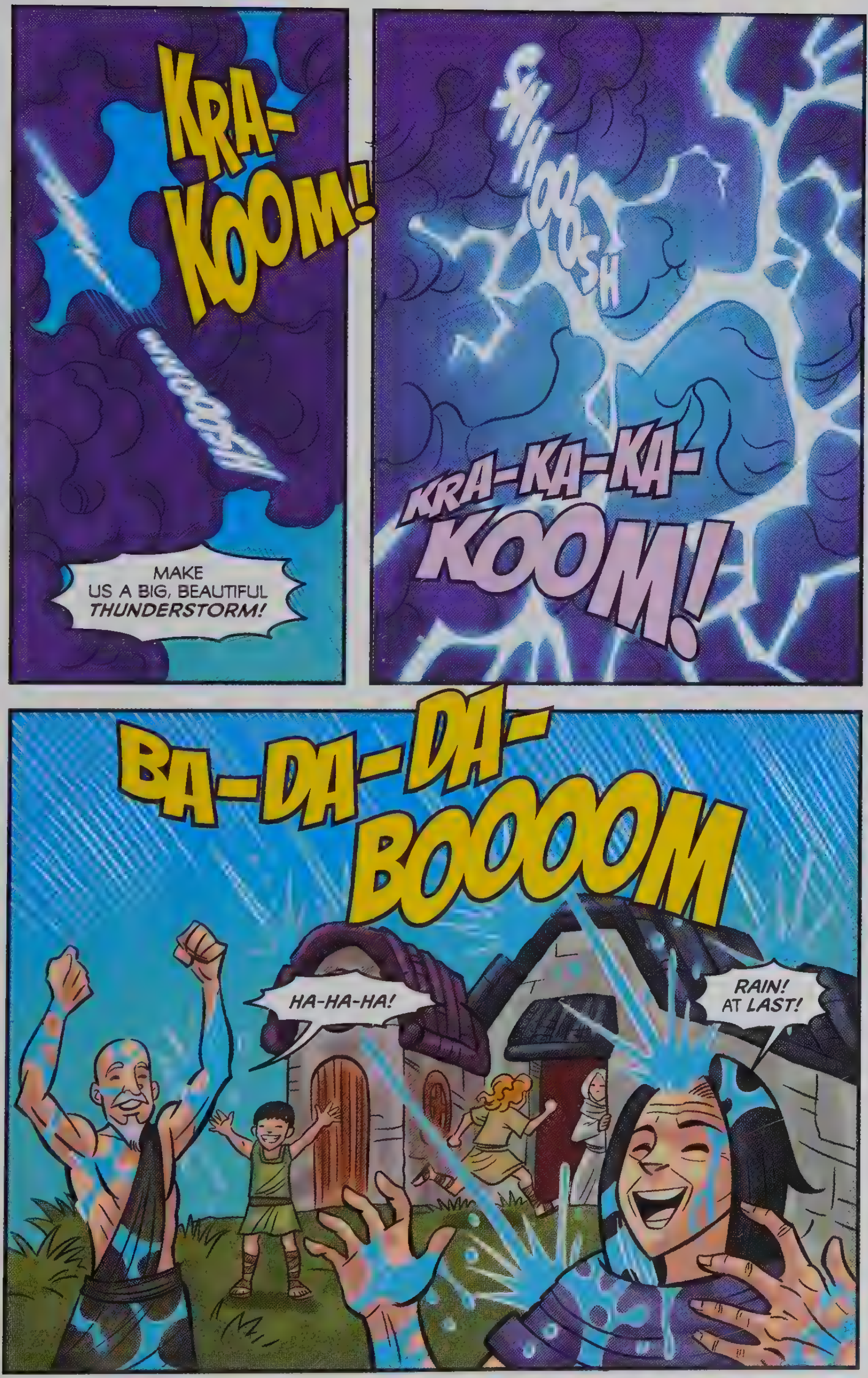

ZEUS SUDDENLY UNDERSTANDS *WHY* THE HALF-GIANTS CAME TO THEIA'S *HOME*...
OH MY!
OH NO... HIS POOR *WIFE*...
THEIA, WAITING FOR HYPERION TO COME *HOME!*
...*NOT* IN SEARCH OF THE OLYMPIANS BUT TO INFORM THEIA OF HER HUSBAND'S *FATE!*

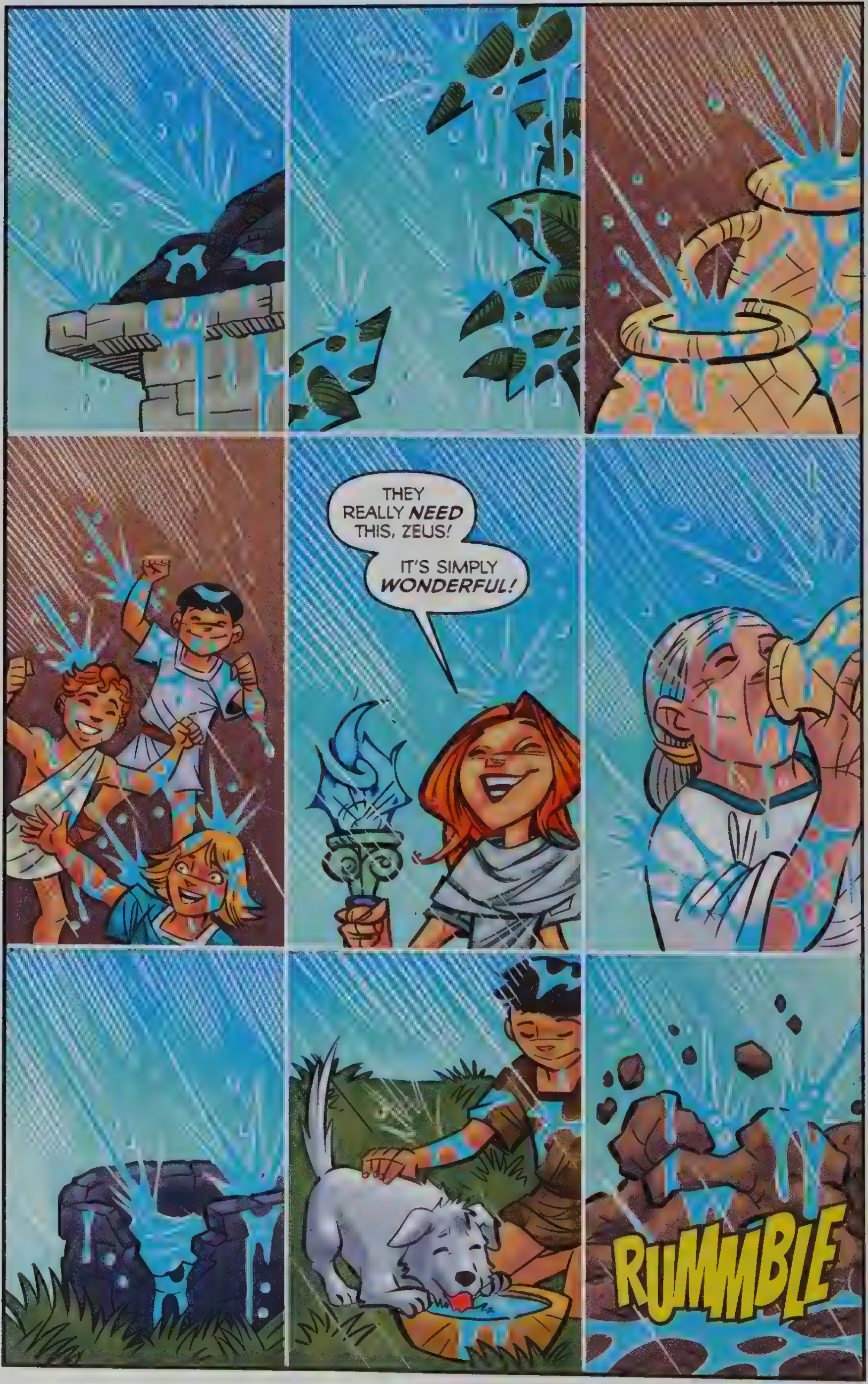

FAREWELL!
WAIT– DON'T GO YET!
EVEN IF I MUST WAIT TO *SEE* HER...
...CAN YOU AT LEAST TELL ME MY MOTHER'S *NAME?*
I MUST *KNOW!*
HER NAME IS *MIA.*
OR, HMMM... MAYBE IT'S *DIA.*
OR *RHEA.*
OR *LEAH.*
IT'S HAZY...

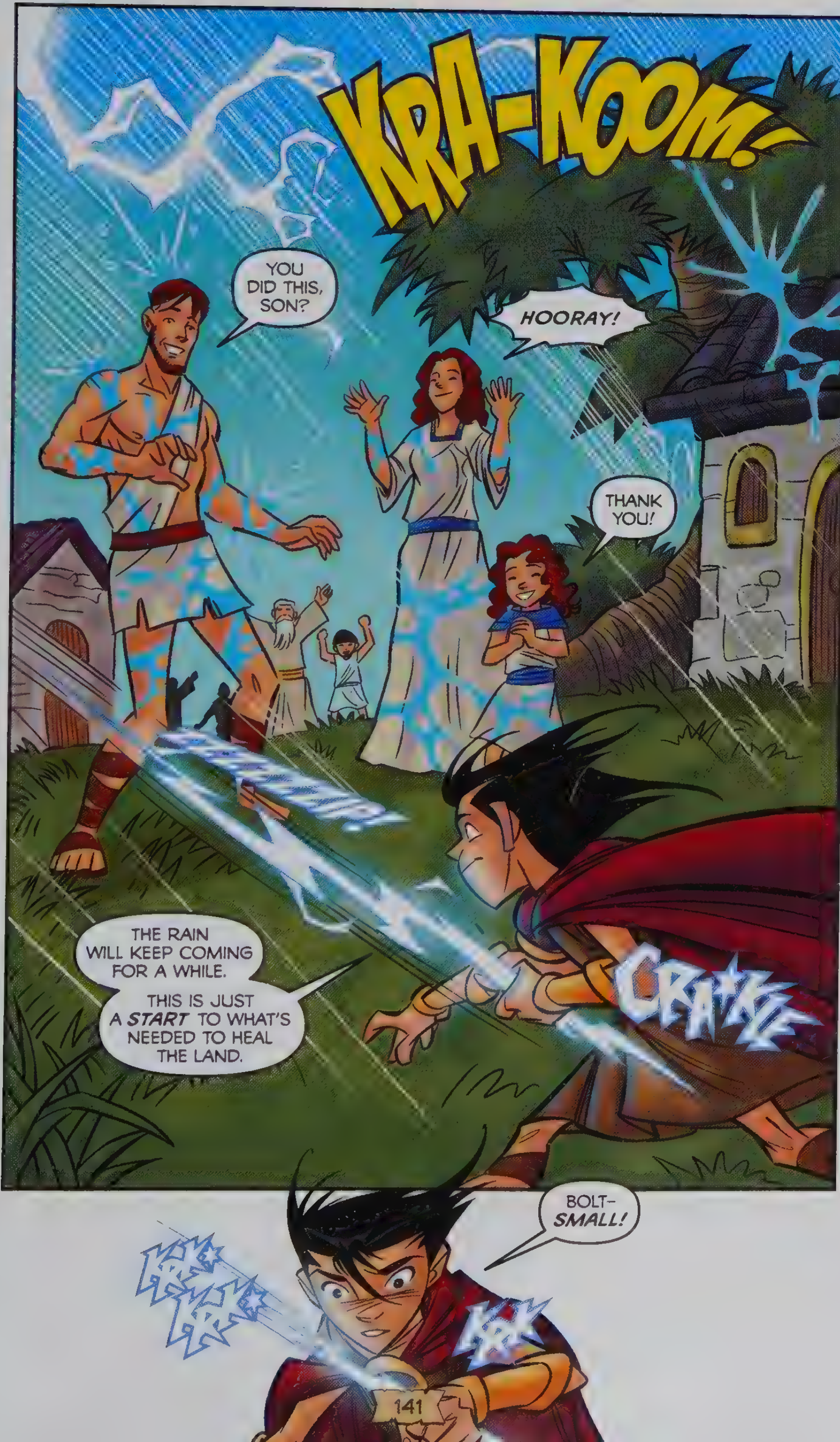

WATCH *THIS,* GUYS!
HAZY...
...CRAZY...
...LAZY...
WHIRRP
HEY, *WATCH* IT!
GLOM!
OOPS. *SORRY!*
BUMMP
HMPH. HESTIA DOESN'T EVEN *APPRECIATE* WHAT SHE'S GOT!
WHEN IS IT *MY* TURN?
OUR TURNS!
ARE YOU TWO *ALL RIGHT?*
UPSET THAT YOU HAVEN'T *EARNED* YOUR MAGICAL OBJECTS YET?
DO WE *LOOK* ALL RIGHT?

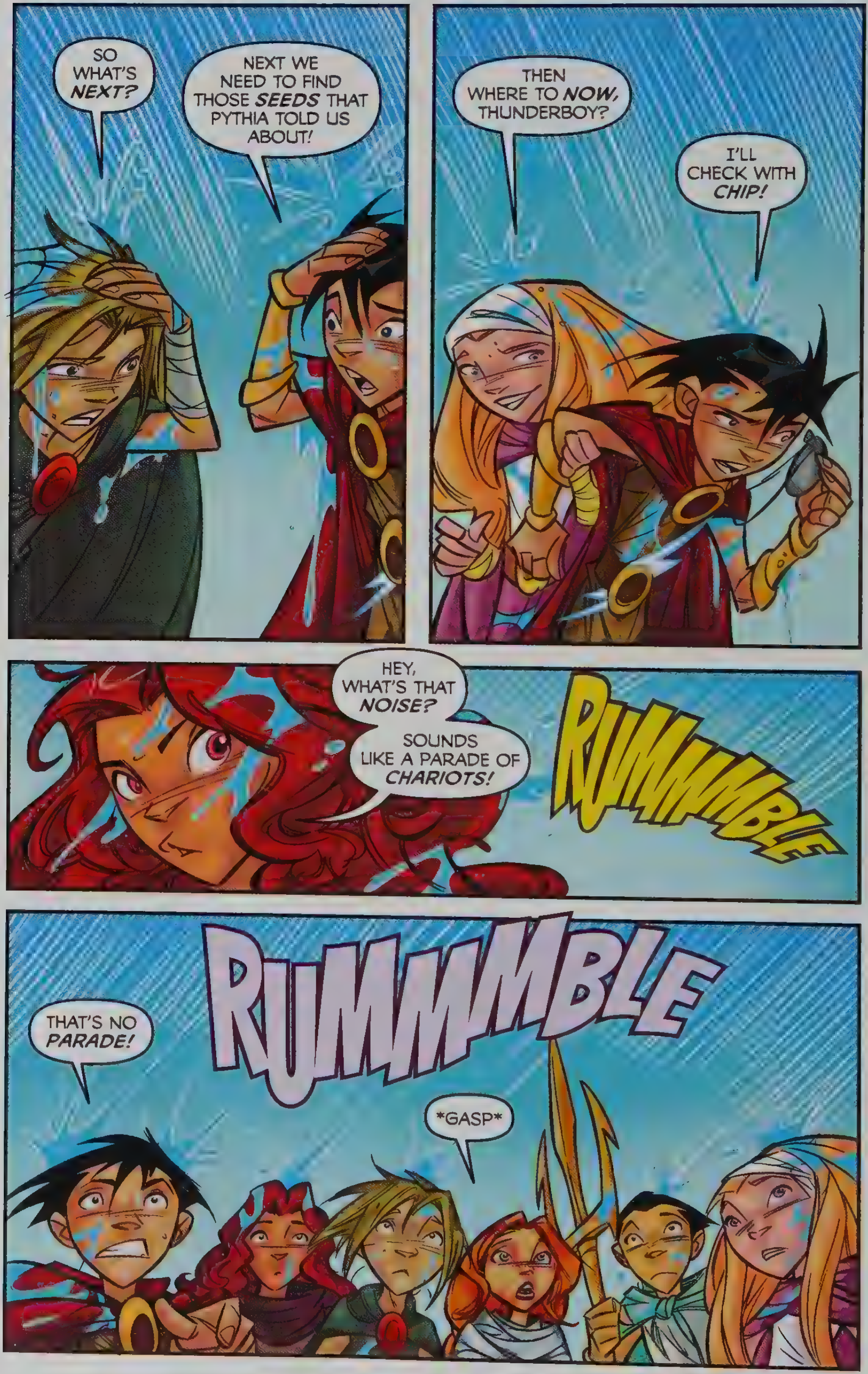

EARNED? *EARNED?*
WHAT DID *YOU* DO TO "EARN" YOUR *TWO* MAGICAL OBJECTS, BOLTBRAIN?
YOU YANKED ON A *STICK* AND BUSTED OFF A *ROCK!*
HESTIA JUST *JOINED* US AND ALREADY GOT *HER* MAGIC.
SHE DID *NOTHING* TO "EARN" IT.
WE JUST *HANDED* IT TO HER!
YOU'RE *RIGHT!* YOU'RE *BOTH* RIGHT! I'M SORRY.
PYTHIA SAID WE'LL *ALL* RECEIVE OUR MAGIC OBJECTS IN TIME, BECAUSE WE ARE ALL *OLYMPIANS!*
YUP, SOMETHING'S CHANGED.
IN THE *AIR,* MAYBE?
HUH?

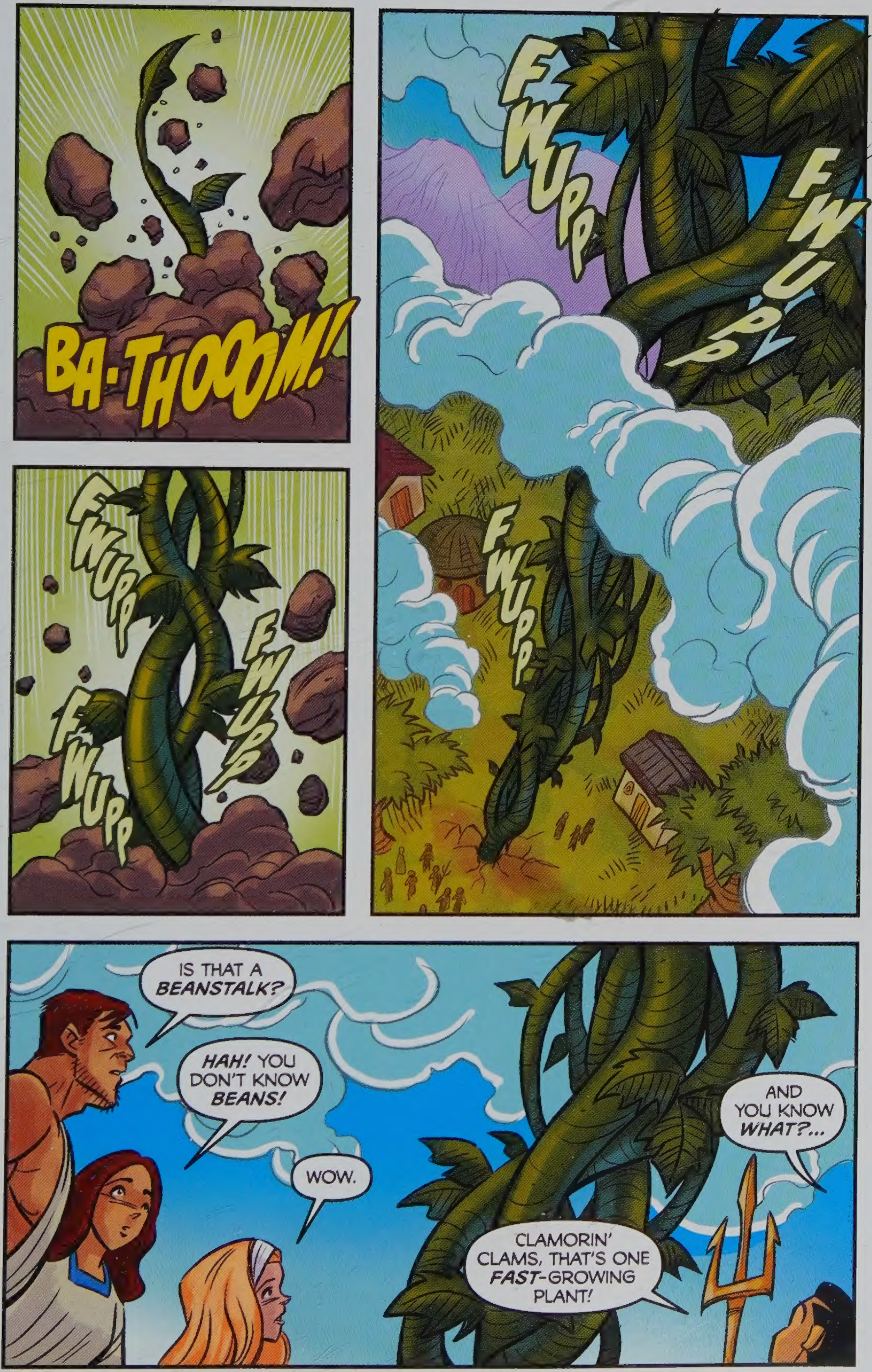

I FEEL *HOPEFUL* AGAIN! AND *GLAD* TO BE HOME.
ME TOO. THOUGH A BIG *THUNDERSTORM* WOULD BE NICE.
YES...
...TO MAKE THINGS *GROW* AGAIN.
A *THUNDERSTORM?*
PYTHIA TOLD US TO "USE THE MAGIC YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN GIVEN."
KRK KRK KRK KRK
BOLT—*LARGE!*
ZZZZZT!
GO, BOLT!

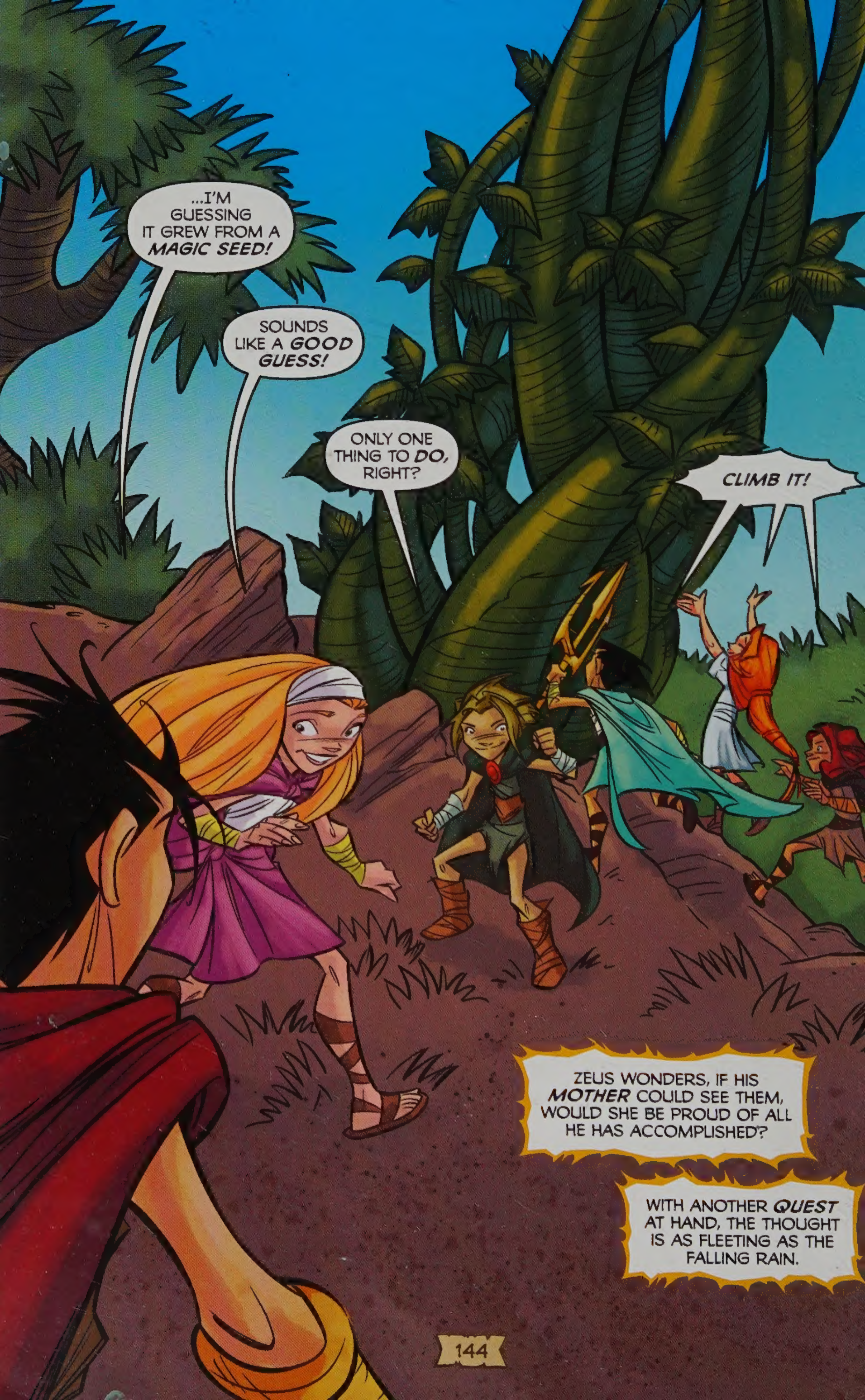

KRA-KOOM!
WHOOOSH
MAKE US A BIG, BEAUTIFUL *THUNDERSTORM!*
SWHOOOSH
KRA-KA-KA-KOOM!
BA-DA-DA-BOOOOM
HA-HA-HA!
RAIN! AT *LAST!*


THEY REALLY *NEED* THIS, ZEUS!
IT'S SIMPLY *WONDERFUL!*
RUMMBLE


KRA-KOOM!
YOU DID THIS, SON?
HOORAY!
THANK YOU!
THE RAIN WILL KEEP COMING FOR A WHILE.
THIS IS JUST A *START* TO WHAT'S NEEDED TO HEAL THE LAND.
CRAKLE
BOLT- *SMALL!*
KRK KRK
KRK


SO WHAT'S *NEXT?*
NEXT WE NEED TO FIND THOSE *SEEDS* THAT PYTHIA TOLD US ABOUT!
THEN WHERE TO *NOW,* THUNDERBOY?
I'LL CHECK WITH *CHIP!*
HEY, WHAT'S THAT *NOISE?*
SOUNDS LIKE A PARADE OF *CHARIOTS!*
RUMMMBLE
RUMMMBLE
THAT'S NO *PARADE!*
GASP


BA-THOOOM!
FWUPP
FWUPP
FWUPP
FWUPP
FWUPP
FWUPP
IS THAT A *BEANSTALK?*
HAH! YOU DON'T KNOW *BEANS!*
WOW.
CLAMORIN' CLAMS, THAT'S ONE *FAST*-GROWING PLANT!
AND YOU KNOW *WHAT?...*


...I'M GUESSING IT GREW FROM A *MAGIC SEED!*
SOUNDS LIKE A *GOOD GUESS!*
ONLY ONE THING TO *DO,* RIGHT?
CLIMB IT!
ZEUS WONDERS, IF HIS *MOTHER* COULD SEE THEM, WOULD SHE BE PROUD OF ALL HE HAS ACCOMPLISHED?
WITH ANOTHER *QUEST* AT HAND, THE THOUGHT IS AS FLEETING AS THE FALLING RAIN.

JOAN HOLUB is the *New York Times* bestselling author of over one hundred fifty books for young readers, including *Little Red Writing, Zero the Hero, Mighty Dads, This Little Trailblazer: A Girl Power Primer,* and *What Is the Statue of Liberty?* She also coauthors the Heroes in Training, Goddess Girls, Little Goddess Girls, and Goddess Girls Graphic Novel series with the amazing Suzanne. Visit her at JoanHolub.com.

SUZANNE WILLIAMS is a former elementary school librarian and the author of over seventy books for children, including the award-winning picture books *Library Lil* (illustrated by Steven Kellogg) and *My Dog Never Says Please* (illustrated by Tedd Arnold) and several chapter book and middle-grade series. She also coauthors the Heroes in Training, Goddess Girls, Little Goddess Girls, and Goddess Girls Graphic Novel series with the fantastic Joan. Visit her at Suzanne-Williams.com.

HEROES IN TRAINING

GRAPHIC NOVEL

PHEW, IT'S HOT!

Hyperion the terrible Titan is making the sun burn even brighter than normal, scorching everything in its path. The Olympians are forced to play a sizzling "game" of Dodge the Sunbursts as Hyperion hurls giant fireballs that could fry them to pieces! After a narrow escape, Zeus, Poseidon, Hades, Hera, and Demeter are determined to figure out what is causing Hyperion's fiery fury. They also need to rescue their fellow Olympian Hestia.

Battling the extreme heat—and some fantastical and scary creatures, courtesy of their old foe Cronus—can the Olympians figure out how to save Hestia, stop Hyperion's destruction, and get Zeus one step cl
discovering his destiny?

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